

Rambouillet pledge to fight world recession

...to lead the world out of recession
...yesterday by leaders of six for-
...rial countries as their Rambouillet
...ummit ended. Mr Wilson said that he
...heartened by the feeling that recovery
...ent and President Ford indicated that
...ld look forward to "more jobs, less

Trade war ruled out economic summit

...being a friendly "fireside
...chat", between world leaders
...about the general nature of the
...problems facing western democ-
...racies, it has turned into an
...attempt to provide reassurance
...about certain very specific
...areas of policy. The two most
...important, apart from the mon-
...etary agreement, were the speed
...and certainty of recovery from
...the present recession, and the
...risk of a new trade war break-
...ing out as part of more general
..."beggar my neighbour" atti-
...tudes.

There has been no new com-
...mitment to reflection and the
...leaders go out of their way to
...emphasize their confidence that
...they are already pursuing
...policies which will lead to a
...steady and sustainable climb
...out of recession. However, they
...do recognize that the situation
...will, to say the least, require
...careful watching during 1976.
...Most expert forecasts predict
...that western Europe will expe-
...rience rising unemployment
...throughout the year as a result
...of a weak pick-up in its level
...of economic activity.

The risk of a trade war is
...seen by many of the leaders
...both as a natural consequence
...of the current recession—which
...has produced 12,500,000 unem-
...ployed in the six countries tak-
...ing part—and a possible cause
...of its continuation.

The risk of a trade credit
...war as countries try to improve
...exports by offering special low
...interest loans, also received
...attention, and three's hope of
...a new agreement to prevent it
...getting worse. The biggest
...problem at the moment, how-
...ever, is the likelihood that some
...countries will feel the need to
...impose import controls with-
...out waiting to see what comes
...out of the current round of
...trade negotiations. All the
...countries renewed their com-
...mitment to the OECD pledge
...that they will not resort to
...measures such as import con-
...trols. Britain went along with
...this, but Mr Wilson made
...clear that the Government
...feels it has the right to intro-
...duce controls to help certain
...specific industries. He told his
...colleagues of "signs of lethal
...attacks directed to destroying
...two or three sectors in in-
...dustry for the permanent
...future."

Photograph and text, page 7;
...leading article, page 15;
...Business News, page 19.

Goodbye to advertisements for a Girl Friday or railway waiting rooms for women only Watch on jobs and schools under Sex Discrimination Act

By David Leigh

As the new year approaches, the Equal Opportunities Commission is preparing to assume the legal powers given by last week's Royal Assent to the Sex Discrimination Bill. The two women appointed by the Home Secretary to head the organization are generating much publicity.

Newspaper advertisements for a "Girl Friday" or a "Man with strong personality for executive position" will be illegal. Schools are being told that they may not be able to use reading books with mummy in the kitchen and daddy out in the garden shed. Just possibly the things that make it a man's world may also go in the end.

Lady Howe, vice-chairman of the commission, called at a lunch in London yesterday for

advertiser not simply to stop discriminatory job advertisements but to stop reinforcing traditional stereotypes of women's role by depicting them in posters and television advertisements holding the washing-up liquid.

Miss Neely Lockwood, who was national woman's officer of the Labour Party before becoming the commission's chairman, was also secretary of the National Joint Committee of Working Women's Organizations. She gave notice at a press conference yesterday that next year primary reading-books showing conventional sex roles should be withdrawn. Boys should get a proper grounding in home economics and parent-hood.

Miss Lockwood said she was concerned that men should

accept much more responsibility in the home. "Why should it always be the woman who takes little Johnny to the dentist?" she asked. Men, too, should work fewer hours, or part time, and share in the woman's traditional family duties.

The commission, which will be based in Manchester and build up to a staff of 400 and a budget of £2.25m, spread over a number of regional offices, will try to set a good example. Part-time jobs are being made available.

"We have got to re-examine our attitudes, at work and in the home", Miss Lockwood said.

British Rail has recently reviewed its operations in the light of the Act. There are more women engine drivers or guards, but there is no ban on

them. British Rail has set about complying with the Act by abolishing women's waiting rooms.

Schools and the sort of careers advice they give are going to be closely watched. It is within the commission's powers to investigate what is taught in schools, or by local authorities, and make enforceable rulings on them, a power that even the Department of Education does not have.

"I think the commission will need to use its powers", Miss Lockwood said. "But it will want first to cooperate with organizations."

Boys certainly ought to be made to pay attention to home-making in school there were more men under 40 now than women, she pointed out with some little relish. That male

Hadrian's wall extension found

By Norman Hammond

Archaeological Correspondent

The western extension of the defensive system of Hadrian's Wall, the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, has been discovered in Cumbria. It lies west of Carlisle, on the south shore of the Solway Firth, and seems to date to the first phase of the frontier's construction. It consists of parallel ditches with palisades between which lie a series of fortlets and towers.

The discovery was made by Professor Barri Jones, of Manchester University, when parching a visible strip of the air, appeared during the dry summer weather.

Professor Jones said: "The termination of the elaborate wall and vallum system at Bowness and its replacement by an apparently far weaker one dependent on isolated mile-fortlets and towers, some of which were already known, have always been against the dictates of both common sense and topography, as there is no natural change in the Solway coastline." He had predicted that a more integrated system would prove to have existed.

Study of the area around the first mile-fortlet to the west of Bowness, at Biglands, disclosed two parallel ditches 46 metres apart approaching the front and rear of the site from the north-east. Farther west, at Cardurnock, two ditches 30 metres apart were traced for more than a kilometre from the air.

At Biglands the ditches seemed to coincide with the earlier phase of the wall and excavation showed that the northern, forward ditch had been recut at least twice, while the southern was of a single phase only, with a sump of an angle-brake type. In the fine silt fill a fragment of pottery was found, part of a wide-mouthed jar of Severn Valley fabric. That pottery appears on Hadrian's Wall only in its first Sea.

Leading article, page 15



Horses ploughing in the traditional way at Chiddingfold, Surrey.

New round in 'cod war' likely after talks with Iceland break down

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

The talks on a new fishing agreement between Britain and Iceland broke down yesterday. Mr Hattersley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who returned home from Reykjavik last night, said the talks were at a standstill, but that he was ready to resume the discussions if Iceland showed any signs of willingness to make progress.

The difference between the two sides is quite a wide one. Britain proposed a figure of 110,000 tons, a reduction of 20,000 tons in the annual catch of cod allowed in waters claimed by Iceland, as opposed to an Icelandic offer of only 65,000 tons.

British sources indicated yesterday that they were prepared to negotiate further on the 110,000 tons offer, and on related matters like the size of nets, but the Icelandic position remained obstinate. A new round in the "cod war" seems likely, therefore, especially

after the incidents last week-end when Icelandic vessels cut two British trawlers' wires.

Mr Hattersley, in a statement in Reykjavik yesterday, made it clear that British trawlermen would continue to fish as if the interim agreement was still in force. They would have firm support in the event of molestation. "Neither they nor anybody else should be in any doubt that, if they need protection, they will most certainly have it," he said.

In addition to three oil-rig supply vessels, which have been hired by the Government to protect the trawlers if the need arises, the Royal Navy has detailed frigates for escort duties. They are on four days' notice, but as the West Germans give medical and technical help have been chartered by the Government and have been off Iceland for some time.

Mr Augustsson, the Iceland Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Iceland would have to defend its new 200-mile limit. Although Iceland has

only six patrol boats for this task Icelandic sources explained yesterday that most of the British fishing grounds are near the old 50-mile limit and so defending the area was not as difficult as it might seem.

"We shall do our utmost to save what can be saved", the sources said.

Mr Hattersley, who called on Mr Hallgrímsson, the Icelandic Prime Minister yesterday, brought back a personal letter from him to Mr Wilson. The previous dispute two years ago was resolved by the Prime Ministers, but there are no new proposals on the Icelandic side, it is understood.

Talks between Iceland and West Germany open in Bonn today, but as the West Germans catch mainly red fish, not cod, the problems are different.

In talks in London yesterday held by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Committee, Iceland proposed a total prohibition on herring fishing in the North Sea.

7,355 doctors vote for industrial action

By John Roper

Medical Reporter

Of the 14,213 valid votes received in the junior hospital doctors' ballot, the result of which was announced yesterday, 7,355 were in favour of industrial action.

Although 5,336 voted against that action, 51.7 per cent decided, in the words of the question on the ballot paper, that they were personally prepared to engage in industrial action and to sustain it until the Government is willing to provide additional money.

They did so despite a warning from leaders on the hospital junior staffs committee of the British Medical Association that the fight would be hard and bitter if industrial action was taken.

The doctors decided last night to ask the British Medical Association council to approve official industrial action as soon as practicable (the Press Association reports). The action will be to work a 40-hour week flexibly according to local needs, and dealing with emergency only. The doctors want a basic salary for a 40-hour week, extra payment within the pay policy for hours over 40, plus clinical assistant rates of £11.50 for 31.8h, £12.10 for 33.6h, £12.70 for 35.4h, £13.30 for 37.2h, £13.90 for 39.0h, £14.50 for 40.8h, £15.10 for 42.6h, £15.70 for 44.4h, £16.30 for 46.2h, £16.90 for 48.0h, £17.50 for 49.8h, £18.10 for 51.6h, £18.70 for 53.4h, £19.30 for 55.2h, £19.90 for 57.0h, £20.50 for 58.8h, £21.10 for 60.6h, £21.70 for 62.4h, £22.30 for 64.2h, £22.90 for 66.0h, £23.50 for 67.8h, £24.10 for 69.6h, £24.70 for 71.4h, £25.30 for 73.2h, £25.90 for 75.0h, £26.50 for 76.8h, £27.10 for 78.6h, £27.70 for 80.4h, £28.30 for 82.2h, £28.90 for 84.0h, £29.50 for 85.8h, £30.10 for 87.6h, £30.70 for 89.4h, £31.30 for 91.2h, £31.90 for 93.0h, £32.50 for 94.8h, £33.10 for 96.6h, £33.70 for 98.4h, £34.30 for 100.2h, £34.90 for 102.0h, £35.50 for 103.8h, £36.10 for 105.6h, £36.70 for 107.4h, £37.30 for 109.2h, £37.90 for 111.0h, £38.50 for 112.8h, £39.10 for 114.6h, 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£102.70 for 305.4h, £103.30 for 307.2h, £103.90 for 309.0h, £104.50 for 310.8h, £105.10 for 312.6h, £105.70 for 314.4h, £106.30 for 316.2h, £106.90 for 318.0h, £107.50 for 319.8h, £108.10 for 321.6h, £108.70 for 323.4h, £109.30 for 325.2h, £109.90 for 327.0h, £110.50 for 328.8h, £111.10 for 330.6h, £111.70 for 332.4h, £112.30 for 334.2h, £112.90 for 336.0h, £113.50 for 337.8h, £114.10 for 339.6h, £114.70 for 341.4h, £115.30 for 343.2h, £115.90 for 345.0h, £116.50 for 346.8h, £117.10 for 348.6h, £117.70 for 350.4h, £118.30 for 352.2h, £118.90 for 354.0h, £119.50 for 355.8h, £120.10 for 357.6h, £120.70 for 359.4h, £121.30 for 361.2h, £121.90 for 363.0h, £122.50 for 364.8h, £123.10 for 366.6h, £123.70 for 368.4h, £124.30 for 370.2h, £124.90 for 372.0h, £125.50 for 373.8h, £126.10 for 375.6h, £126.70 for 377.4h, £127.30 for 379.2h, £127.90 for 381.0h, £128.50 for 382.8h, £129.10 for 384.6h, £129.70 for 386.4h, £130.30 for 388.2h, £130.90 for 390.0h, £131.50 for 391.8h, £132.10 for 393.6h, 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£162.70 for 485.4h, £163.30 for 487.2h, £163.90 for 489.0h, £164.50 for 490.8h, £165.10 for 492.6h, £165.70 for 494.4h, £166.30 for 496.2h, £166.90 for 498.0h, £167.50 for 500.0h.

To the question whether they were content to continue on the existing contract (which is 80 hours a week plus extra duty allowance, 1,077 voted "yes" and 2,436 "no").

The juniors were asked to give their first and second choice in answering the three options offered by the Government, which was within the pay policy. The first was to postpone implementation of the new contract until April, when extra money may be available; 1,317 voted for that as first choice and 1,832 as second choice.

The second option, which was the new possibility introduced after two days' negotiation with Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Health, was to implement the new contract immediately as priced by the review body, with means that a third of the 19,000 juniors would lose money; 1,799 voted for that option as first choice and 929 as second choice.

Mrs Castle said last night: "Any plan for industrial action in the NHS is to be deplored. Industrial action by even a third of junior hospital doctors, only 7,355 junior doctors out of a total of 20,300 junior doctors in the country, could have desperate consequences for the patients who depend on them."

Failure rate rises, page 5

Amnesty finds Soviet law guilty of bias

By Our Foreign Staff

Soviet law is "wholly inadequate in protecting the rights of people charged with political offences and suspected of being mentally ill, according to a report published yesterday by Amnesty International. The common assumption that abuses derive mainly from failures to observe the law, says the report, is therefore demolished.

Once a person is suspected of being mentally ill, the report points out, he is denied any right to influence the legal or medical decisions made in his case. He need not even be told about them until he is sent for confinement to a mental hospital.

The report is one of the most detailed that Amnesty International has ever published on a single country. It estimates that there are about 10,000 political and religious prisoners in the Soviet Union, but admits the absence of reliable information. Most political prisoners are charged under the criminal code for offences such as "anti-Soviet agitation and slander".

Soviet prison conditions are

also strongly criticized in the report. Most prisoners are kept in constant hunger, it says, and the work is often unhealthy or dangerous.

In the special mental hospitals, to which political offenders are sometimes confined, convicted criminal prisoners are employed as orderlies and frequently beat up inmates, who have no access to any mechanism of appeal or complaint.

The report is being published simultaneously in English, Dutch, German, French and Swedish. Its detailed recommendations for changes in Soviet laws and procedures will also be published in Russian, since Amnesty would like to discuss them seriously with Soviet lawyers.

An Amnesty official said yesterday that the Soviet Union was far from being the only country in need of reforms, although it was a "very bleak spot on the human rights map". In Amnesty's experience, the report says, there has never been an acquittal of a political defendant in the Soviet Union.

Bernard Levin, page 14

9-month for industry

...drop in British business
...the beginning of the world
...is now almost certain to be
...year. Official figures show a
...drop in the output of goods
...luring the first nine months
...ver, the pace of the decline
...slowing considerably. The
...nths of the year are expected
...show some signs of recovery.
...Page 19

son discusses r with Mr Ford

...has had discussions with
...d on the problems of the
...company's loss-making British
...told a press conference in
...not asked for United States
...lp. He said the Government
...a statement on Chrysler to
...on, though not necessarily
...Riccardo talks, Page 19

its fear

...tion and maintenance cus-
...ned, and others believed to
...deration, lead traffic experts
...tain may return to wartime
...rise in the 1980s. Hundreds
...villages may continue to
...Page 5

auss relents

...of Strauss, leader of the
...tian Social Union, appears
...concessions to his partners
...the Christian Democratic
...wo parties are trying to
...ed front for next year's
...Page 6

ion decision

...at's views on the report of
...viction will not be made
...rly next year. Mr Rees, the
...ate, has made that clear to
...sley and other leaders of
...er Unionist Coalition
...Page 2

Mystery cloaks the Goncourt winner

After fire bombs and police in profusion, the eventual selection of this year's winner of the Prix Goncourt was made in the same atmosphere of drama. The identity of the prizewinner remained cloaked in mystery after the jury announced their verdict at the Place Gailly in Paris. Page 6

Underwater search

The trustees of the British Museum have decided to continue to support next season's treasure hunt for the largest store of fragments of archaic Greek pottery known to be still extant, in an eighteenth-century wreck off the Isles of Scilly. Leonard Buckley, page 10

Angola air war likely

The armoured column of nationalist and mercenary troops, advancing on the Angolan capital, Luanda, is expecting an early attack by MIG21 fighters. With other modern Soviet weapons, the jets are reported to be arriving daily to help the Moscow-backed MPLA movement defend the city. Page 6

Fear acquitted: Four men, alleged by a police informer to have taken part in a wages robbery with him in 1969, have been cleared by a jury.

Devolution survey: Both proponents and opponents of devolution drew comfort from an opinion poll, published yesterday.

Harvest down: Cereal yields are expected to be well below last year's level.

Bilingual aid: Gwynedd council is asking the Government for a big contribution to wards the cost of its bilingual policy.

Portugal: Some MPs leave Lisbon because of disorders and hold meeting in Oporto.

Australia: Mr Fraser's speech revealing the country's economic plight is seen by observers as a slight anti-claim.

Oman: A 14-page Special Report on Sultan Qaboos's first five years as ruler of "the last corner of Arabia".

Britain to import steel from Europe

Steel produced by European competitors is to be imported by the British Steel Corporation to meet contracts placed by United Kingdom consumers. The decision to import comes at a time when the state steel organization is making heavy losses and wants to shed thousands of jobs. MPs are likely to demand explanations when Parliament reassembles tomorrow. Page 19

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Detention orders served on 42 at Southampton

From Robert Parker

Southampton

Detention orders were served last night on the 42 people held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after the discovery on Saturday of 400lb of explosives in a block of council flats in Southampton docks.

The Home Office confirmed the serving of the orders after a day of intense activity during which the Cunard liner QE2 was subjected to a rigorous search at her berth, and the city's housing communique announced that she was seeking police advice on security at all 19 of its tower blocks of flats.

Two Southampton MPs appealed to the public not to become drawn into a backlash against the Irish community in the area.

About a hundred police officers, soldiers and customs officers are involved in the search of the QE2, which began on Saturday morning about two and a half hours after the discovery of 400lb of explosives in Albion Towers.

Six dogs trained to sniff out explosives are being used, and yesterday the Army brought on board detection equipment that is understood to involve the pumping of gas into cavities.

Hampshire police, who are being assisted by the bomb squad from Scotland Yard, are giving no details of the search, but it is understood that they are looking for traces of the explosives found in Albion Towers and for evidence of

Yard inquiry into Hain case

An investigation by a senior Scotland Yard officer into the case of Peter Hain, who is charged with stealing £490 from a bank, was ordered after the Director of Public Prosecutions took over the case last week, the police stated last night. Mr Hain, president of the Young Liberals, is due to appear in court next week, charged with the robbery.

A detective chief superintendent from Scotland Yard's Central department has been investigating newspaper articles published while the case was sub judice, the police added.

Michael Ayrton dies

Mr Michael Ayrton, aged 54, the painter, sculptor and author, died at his London flat yesterday. Son of the late Mr Gerald Gould, the poet and critic, and the late Mrs Barbara Ayrton Gould, a former Labour MP, he was also an illustrator and theatre designer and the youngest member of the BBC's radio Brains Trust in the 1940s. He leaves a widow and three step-daughters.

Franco progress

Madrid, Nov 17.—General Franco remained in a "very serious" condition here today though there were signs of a slight improvement. A bulletin said the perennial inflammation "is gradually receding" and his lung trouble "is stabilized".

HOME NEWS

Tories plan to rally education authorities' fight against enforced all-in schooling

By a Staff Reporter

The Conservative Party will try to rally opposition by education authorities throughout the country if the Government goes ahead in the new parliamentary session with legislation to abolish the 11-plus examination and enforce nationwide comprehensive education.

There have been strong indications that the Queen's Speech on Wednesday will include proposals to ensure that the reorganization of secondary education is nationwide.

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Opposition spokesman on education, said yesterday that such legislation would raise constitutional as well as educational issues. It would drive the Opposition back into the old battleground of reorganization, whereas the real need was to raise standards of learning and discipline in existing schools.

"It is true that this is what the Government intends, it represents a major shift in power away from local education authorities to the Department of Education and Science and the Minister."

Local authorities have either introduced a comprehensive system or indicated a willingness to do so when resources permit, but seven have resisted all pressures and refused to draw up comprehensive schemes. More than a dozen, however, have signified no date when reorganization can be completed.

Mr St John-Stevas said it was an important issue for all education authorities. "We shall try to rally them through out the country to resist this as an attack on their autonomy as well as on the educational system."

"Even if it gets on to the statute book by the end of this session, the authorities will need a few years to prepare their plans and be in a position to implement them, and by that time there will have been another election."

"We are not against comprehensive as such, but against every being imposed on every where without regard to financial resources, local conditions and parental wishes."

"The people who are going to suffer are the children. If you try to force authorities to do what they do not want to do at a time of grave shortage of funds, you are just going to get confusion."

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North and a vice-chairman of the Conservative parliamentary education committee, said in a speech yesterday that the Government's compulsory nationwide comprehensive education would be another step in the advance of the totalitarian society. All evidence from big cities showed that after comprehensive reorganization, academic standards had declined and there was less working class social mobility.

Mr E. W. Maynard Potts, president of the National Education Association, which was set up in 1964 in defence of grammar schools, said yesterday that the Government's plan was a "serious handicap" to the education system.

He had found such resistance to the plan among grammar school parents, but also among the loss of technical schools and of well-run secondary modern schools.

The possibilities for the more gifted pupils in science, technology and languages were restricted in many comprehensive schools, and that was leading ultimately to deficiencies of manpower and knowledge in industry.

The kids in most comprehensive schools still attached to the cleverest pupils. Average and below average pupils were forced into the "daily humiliation" of comparison with them.

The National Union of Teachers said yesterday that it would welcome such legislation as something it had been seeking for many years. "It is needed to persuade the laggards who are dragging their feet, and to avoid gross inequalities of educational provision between areas," a spokesman said.

Sutton Borough Council, one of the seven authorities resisting comprehensive reorganization, may take the issue to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, one of its members said yesterday.

Councillor Edwin Trevor, who helped to organize petitions to save the borough's four grammar schools, said the Government's plan would force to comprehensive a contravention of human rights.



Members of the Workers' Revolutionary Party, including Miss Vanessa Redgrave (second from right), marching in London yesterday in protest against a police raid in September on the party's education centre.

Mr du Cann may face '1922' challenge

By George Clark

Mr Edward du Cann, a former minister and chairman of the Conservative Party, is likely to be challenged for the chairmanship of the Conservative backbenchers' 1922 Committee when the election of officers takes place in two weeks' time.

Although Mr du Cann exercised a strong influence in favour of Mrs Thatcher in the contest for the leadership of the party in March, and was offered a job in the Shadow Cabinet by her, his popularity in the party suffered a setback in the last stage of the EEC referendum campaign.

In a speech at Taunton, his constituency, two days before the voting he offended many Conservatives by seeming to go against Mrs Thatcher's commitment of the party to a "Yes" vote, saying that, but for the customary loyalty to a leader, he would have voted "No".

Party members would have been publicly seen to be against EEC membership as were in favour.

Perhaps there might even be a majority for withdrawal, he said, because membership of the EEC was "bound to offend against much of our history, and the consequent attitude of the Conservative Party". He put loyalty to his country higher than party loyalty.

After the referendum he found it necessary to explain his position to the committee. He said that his view about the United Kingdom's signing of the Treaty of Rome was as consistent and undisputed, if muted as the views of those who were pro-EEC.

But with the advantage of hindsight he thought his speech was perhaps to be regretted. The difficulty had been that it was interpreted as coming from him as chairman of the 1922 Committee rather than as an individual MP.

There were few open comments on his statement, but was obvious afterwards that many Conservatives had been resentful of the fact that he had suggested that the party was equally divided on the EEC issue.

In the coming parliamentary session the 1922 Committee is establishing much closer contacts with the EEC.

Mr du Cann, who will seek reelection to the chairmanship, which he has held since 1972, is a vocal critic of Mrs Thatcher's policy of "Europeanism", a force of change and later Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has been approached by several other MPs for the chairmanship.

Ulster death toll tops last year's total

From Stewart Tandler

Deaths at the weekend took this year's toll so far in Northern Ireland above that for the whole of last year. They show that despite the Provisional IRA ceasefire during most of this year violence continued.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary says 217 people have died compared with 216 in 1972. The ceasefire has reduced casualties to security forces and fighting within communities have increased civilian casualties.

Last year there were 166 civilian deaths. This year 156 have died, 135 of them at the hands of sectarian assassins or gunmen from rival groups.

Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and his security advisers, when they meet shortly for their weekly security analysis, can take some comfort from a total of deaths of nine police officers, four Ulster soldiers and four Ulster civilians.

The figures have been falling since 1972, when 467 people died.

The "loyalist" cause for tougher security measures, but on Saturday Mr Rees rejected a suggestion in the constitutional Convention's report that control of the security forces should return to a local administration.

Six men saved from trawler

A Belgian trawler with six crew members was turned on its side about 20 miles off Flanders coast, Humberside, during fierce gales in the North Sea yesterday.

Four were rescued by helicopter from RAF Leconfield, and taken to Hull Royal Infirmary, suffering from cold. Three were taken from a life raft, and one from the hull of the vessel, the Damar. The other two were picked up by a Belgian fishing vessel.

Motor cycles burnt

Vandals set fire to six new Spanish Derbi machines in their packing cases in the yard of Nettleton Motorcycles, in London Road, Gloucester, yesterday, causing damage estimated at £4,000.

A telephone call ends the 10-day kidnap hunt kept secret by the press

By Clive Borrell

The 10-day kidnap drama of Miss Aljo Kaloghirou, which newspapers, television, and radio kept secret at the request of the police, ended with a telephone call from the victim late on Saturday night saying: "I'm safe."

Miss Kaloghirou, aged 18, a Greek-Cypriot student, was freed in torrential rain after a ransom of £17,000 in a paper package had been left at a pre-arranged spot.

At 1.20 am yesterday reporters who had been pledged to secrecy were told that the news blackout had been lifted. The news was free to report the kidnapping. "There is no doubt that your cooperation helped to get this girl back alive," Mr John Wilson, Assistant Commissioner (Crime) at Scotland Yard, told reporters.

After having a medical examination, Miss Kaloghirou was driven to her married sister's home in Outram Road, Wood Green, north London, from where she had been abducted by two men wearing stocking masks in the early evening of November 6.

Her brother-in-law, Mr Loucas Neocleous, aged 26, an accountant, who conducted the negotiations with the kidnappers, said to reporters after Miss Kaloghirou had a sound night's sleep: "She is perfect, absolutely perfect. In fact, she has been laughing."

"I am very pleased you kept it secret; you saved her life. She seems to have been treated well."

The happy outcome to what police considered a highly dangerous situation ended just as Sir Wilson and Mr Neocleous, Mr Ernest Bond, had planned it.

By 7 pm on November 6 they faced a double dilemma. Was it a genuine kidnap case or a hoax? Or could it be a prank being played by the missing girl, who was known to be studying hard?

The ransom note left on a table demanding £50,000 appeared real enough. It was decided after a brief conference to treat the case as a serious kidnapping.

Should the press, radio and television be told? Police could not guarantee that the news would not leak out within a few hours. The note said that if the police were informed the girl would be killed. If the kidnappers read or heard of the

abduction they would know that the family's insistence that the police had not been contacted was untrue.

Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, gambled and waited 24 hours before he got in touch with all editors asking for a complete news blackout.

Had he left his request later there is no doubt that the news of the kidnapping would have been made public.

Messages were dispatched by hand to all editors, saying: "In the interests of the safety of the person kidnapped, the Commissioner asks that at the stage editors refrain from publishing or acting upon any information about a kidnapping that may come to their notice."

The Confidential Memorandum was headed and no newspaper published a word.

Throughout the weekend of November 8 and 9 no further news was made by the kidnappers, but the news "blanket" remained. By Monday morning the news media were becoming restless and began to wonder how long they should abide by what, after all, was only a friendly request to ignore an important event

which normally would have received banner headlines.

At that point a decision was made to take the media into the confidence of the police. Twenty reporters, representing newspapers, radio and television, were invited to a secret briefing at the Yard to be told the latest developments.

From then on each morning before 11 o'clock we formed a "crocodile" in the front of the Yard office block, in Broadway, for a daily run-down on what had happened during the previous 24 hours. Each time it was pointed out that the police still did not know whether the girl was alive, and any publicity could mean the kidnappers would kill her.

During the daily briefings it was discussed what further action had been taken. The police had discreetly installed themselves in the house and had linked the telephone with a tape recorder.

Detectors in disguise, some sweeping up leaves, some just sitting past the house, were on hand. In fact, Mr Wilson said, there were more than a hundred of them "active" in the area.

It had been noticed that some of the kidnappers had also been keeping the house under surveillance, although they did not realize that they were themselves being watched by the police.

"They still think that we are not involved, thanks to your cooperation. We are watching a number of houses but we dare not raid them yet in case we have the wrong places under observation."

"The family are negotiating with the kidnappers, and we are prompting them on what to say. We do not know if the girl is alive or dead but we have told the family that they should pay over the ransom money when it is demanded."

Those were some of the remarks made by Mr Wilson and Mr Bond during the long hours when both police and reporters waited for "news".

As the days dragged on the kidnappers were getting "edgy". Because of the delicacy of the operation, the media were asked to keep well away from the area in case the kidnappers mistook police activity for police surveillance.

The week which the kidnappers allowed the family to raise the money came and went

But by that time the kidnappers had realized that the family, Mr Adam Kaloghirou, aged 61, a textile merchant in Larnaca, Cyprus, had flown to London with his wife at the weekend to attempt to raise the ransom money.

The Great-Cypriot community in London was asked to help to get the £60,000 together without being given any reason for the sudden need for the money.

The police, however, were not told that the kidnappers had made a sudden trip to Manchester.

On Friday evening three calls were made to the family's home in each one the kidnappers outlined their plans for exchanging Miss Kaloghirou for ransom money.

On Saturday, when they telephoned again they were told by her brother-in-law that £17,000 was the most that could be raised. That amount was accepted. The instructions were given that Mr Neocleous was to drive to a spot in the road near Bouda Green railway station and leave the money.

Just after midnight on Saturday Miss Kaloghirou was driven by her kidnappers to the same alleyway and dumped there.

Leading article, page 17

Government to flow of Bills

By Our Political Correspondent

If the Government were to introduce all the Bills which ministers have indicated are ready for inclusion in the programme for the next session of Parliament to be opened by the Queen on Wednesday, MPs would be in for a hectic time.

But the Government has given an important undertaking to the House of Lords which will have the welcome effect of cutting down the flow of legislation, so that some of the Bills may have to be held over.

The undertaking is that no new legislation will be introduced, either in the Commons or the Lords, after Easter.

The promise was given after the Lords had complained about being recalled in September to deal with the backlog of Bills which had been rushed from the Commons in August.

As stated in *The Times* on November 10, the main items of legislation will deal with devolution to the new assemblies in Scotland and Wales, secondary education, the development land tax, official secrets, authors' lending rights, the new agency for controlling gun buying, dock labour, complaints against the police and bail procedures.

Other Government Bills are being prepared for a redefinition of nationality and citizenship, construction of protection and prevention of terrorism.

Projection of Mr Prentice a terrible scandal

By Our Political Correspondent

The decision of the organization committee of the Labour Party to reject Mr Reg Prentice's appeal against the action of his constituency party in Newham, North-East, in disavowing him as a "terrible scandal", Mr Roger Fox, chairman of the Social Democratic Alliance, said: "The Labour Party conference for adopting what were called 'McCarthyist tactics' when calling attention to members of the national executive who were 'prepared to give aid and comfort' to the Communist Party."

Mr Fox said that since the SDAs were formed in June the situation facing "moderates" in the Labour Party had worsened. "If the national executive allows Cabinet ministers who uphold Labour policy to be chopped for political reasons, it can only mean that moderates in the party cannot count on the support of the party NEC in similar situations."

The decision of the organization committee to take no action on a report on Trotskyist activities in the Labour Party Young Socialists was even more serious, because "infiltration" was spilling over into the main party, which was in danger of becoming "a battleground for warring Trotskyist factions."

"To allow people who have no allegiance to the Labour Party, who only seek to take over the party for their own doctrinal ends, is the grossest irresponsibility. The four NEC members present at the committee meeting should be ashamed of themselves."

Mr Prentice said yesterday that he hopes to address the national executive when it considers the organization committee's report on his dispute.

He said "My friends are disturbed by the narrow view being taken by the NEC committee."

'Safety mark' in gas appliances

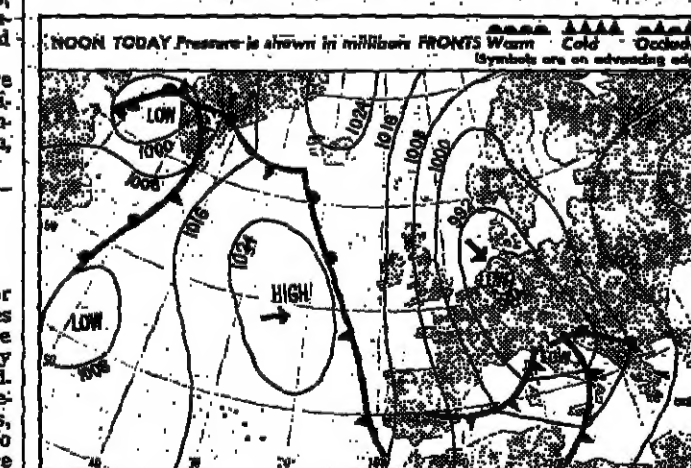
A British Standards Institution

certificate covering domestic gas appliances is to be introduced next week. It will be the first to use the new "Safety Mark".

Within a year the standard will be extended to domestic cooking appliances, cover central heating boilers and circulators, drying cabinets, gas fires, gas refrigerators and freezers, storage water heaters.

Miss Jane Chapman, aged a London schoolteacher, been selected as prospective parliamentary Labour candidate for Dover and Deal. At the election Mr Peter Rees held seat for the Conservatives.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.21 am
Sun sets: 4.10 pm
Moon sets: 5.43 am
Moon rises: 3.22 pm
Full Moon: Tomorrow.
Lighting up: 4.40 pm to 6.53 am.
High water: London Bridge, 12.37 am, 6.5m (22.3ft); 12.51 pm, 6.9m (22.5ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 12.00 am, 12.0m (39.5ft); 6.21 pm, 12.3m (40.2ft).
Dover, 10.0 am, 6.2m (20.4ft); 10.24 pm, 6.2m (20.5ft).
Hull, 4.41 am, 6.8m (22.5ft); 5.11 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft).
Liverpool, 10.9 am, 8.6m (28.2ft); 10.21 pm, 8.7m (28.5ft).

Minor troughs of low pressure in a N stream will move S over the British Isles.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE England, East Anglia: Mostly cloudy with rain at times; wind N, fresh, gale force in places; max temp: 6°C (43°F).
Central S England, Midlands: Sunny, spells of showers in places; wind N, fresh; max temp: 5°C (41°F).
E England: Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain; wind N, strong, with severe gale at first near coast; max temp 5°C (41°F).
Channel Islands: Showery with sunny intervals; wind N, strong to a max of 7°C (45°F) at SW, NW, central N England: S Wales: Showers and sunny intervals; snow at times on high ground; wind N, strong to gale; max temp 6°C (43°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Cold with wintry showers in many places at first but becoming milder in W with more general rain later; night frost in places at first.
Sea: passages: S North Sea: Strait of Dover: Wind N, strong to gale; sea very rough.
English Channel (E): Wind N, strong, perhaps gale force; sea rough.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max 6 am 6 pm, 5°C (43°F); min 6 pm 5 am, 9°C (48°F). Humidity, pm, 55 per cent. Rain, 24hr: 6 pm, 0.65in; Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5in. Mean sea level, 6 p 1005.5 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Overseas: selling prices
Australia: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.
Canada: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.
New Zealand: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.
South Africa: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.
Switzerland: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.
U.S.A.: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.



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Switzerland: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.
U.S.A.: 100 s.d. 100 s.d. 100 s.d.

Unemployment benefit up by 13% today

By Diana Geddes

Unemployment and supplementary benefits for Britain's 1,114,000 unemployed go up by an average of 13 per cent today, the second increase this year.

The Government estimates that the total cost of benefits for the unemployed for the year ending April 1976, will be nearly £1,000m.

The basic unemployment benefit for a single person is now £11.10, up from £9.86, with an additional £5.30 for a spouse, £3.50 for the first child, and £2 for each additional child.

Earnings-related benefit, which starts at a rate of 1p a week for previous average annual earnings of £501, now go up to a maximum of £9.50 for earnings of £2,400 or more.

Earnings-related benefits stop after six months and all unemployment benefits stop after one year. But unemployed people with low incomes or no income are eligible for supplementary benefit. This is now payable at a maximum rate of £10.90 plus rent for a single person, £17.75 plus rent for a married couple, with additional amounts for each child, which vary according to the child's age.

Where the unemployment benefit is lower than the amount which could be received in supplementary benefit, it will be brought up to the higher level.

An unemployed man with a wife and two children, who had previously been earning £40 a week, will now be able to get £31.67 in unemployment and earnings-related benefit.

When you may have 50 or more fighting over the same job one man's unemployment is another man's employment.

Does this level of benefit mean that more and more people are staying at home, remaining voluntarily unemployed, because they do not consider it worth their while to look for a job?

In order to get unemployment benefit a man must register at one of the 950 employment offices in the country, run by the Employment Service Agency. If he refuses a suitable job that is offered to him he may be reported to the unemployment benefit office, and his benefit may be stopped.

But, if he has no other source of income or only very little, he will be able to receive supplementary benefit, which, together with the amount to cover the rent, is often as high as, if not higher than, the unemployment benefit. A nominal £2 or so a week may be taken off if he has been classed as RSE (retained suitable employment), but he is not likely to be much worse off.

It is up to the individual advisers at the unemployment offices to decide what a "suitable" job is for a particular unemployed person. His average previous earnings will be taken into account, as will his skills

Mr Clifford Senior, director of the Employment Services Agency, says that many people think the agency's first duty should be to the benefits fund. "They feel that we should therefore push people into jobs, especially those not keen to work. But we reply that if we pushed reluctant and untrained, unskilled, people into jobs employers would lose faith in us."

Are the scroungers having an easier time now? "Yes, of course they are," Mr Senior replies. "But others who need and want work are getting the job. In the present situation, when you may have 50 or more people fighting over the same job, one man's unemployment is another man's employment."

There were 1,042,500 unemployed (seasonally adjusted) in Britain last month and 123,400 registered job vacancies, a fall of 11,400 from the previous month. This means that overall, there are now nine unemployed for every registered vacancy, though the ratio is much higher for certain types of unemployed, the unskilled and semi-skilled.

Contrary to a common misconception, the unemployed are not a static group of people. At present about 400,000 are coming on to the register each month and 350,000 are leaving.

A national survey in 1973 by Mr W. Daniel for the Political and Economic Planning (PEP) found that benefits did not make the unemployed any less eager to find a job.

PARIS
27p.

The charge shown is for a 60 second call.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECT DIALLING.
THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGER TIPS.

See your Dialling Code booklet for more details.

The charge shown is exclusive of VAT and does not apply to a coinbox call.

We hate to see people wasting their money paying rent.

Our aim is to prevent this happening to as many people as possible.

And we are making progress.

To give you some idea, in 1914, the year the First World War started, only 10% of the homes in this country were owned by the people living in them.

Today the figure is 53% owner occupation.

And this year, 4 out of 5 of the home loans granted have come from building societies.

But there are more than a few people who live in rented houses and flats as a matter of course.

Originally, no doubt, they were in a position where it was the best option.

But now their situation has improved. Their income is higher or their outgoings are lower. But they haven't really focussed on the fact.

We feel that by encouraging those people who can afford to buy their own homes to do so, we're doing the best thing we can to help.

If you're one of those people and this advertisement causes you to consider the benefits of home ownership, it will have been well worth while.

But there's still plenty of room for improvement.

We've got a way to go before we catch up some other countries we could mention. The USA, for example, with 65% of its homes occupied by owners. And Canada and Australia with 67%.

However, we all know that old habits die hard in this country and a significant proportion of the population still expect to rent their homes.

And it must be admitted, there are many families who don't earn enough to pay an economic rent—let alone carry a home loan. They need all the help they can get. And there isn't enough rented housing to take care of them in many parts of the country.

Just think:

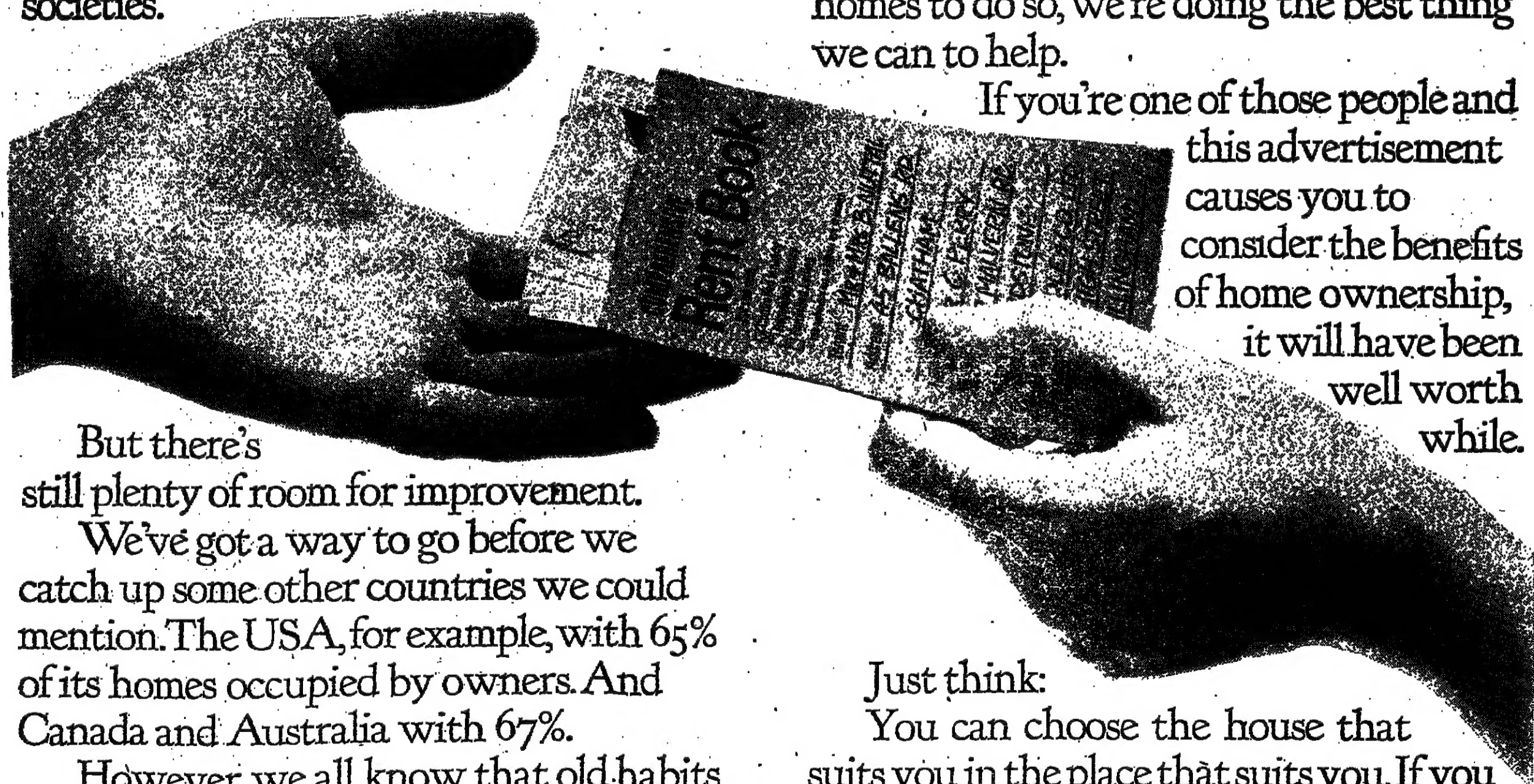
You can choose the house that suits you in the place that suits you. If you want to alter the house later, you can. If you want to move somewhere else, you can.

And you could free a home for somebody who needs it badly.

Talk to a building society and open a savings account. It's the first step towards becoming a man (or woman) of property.

The Building Societies.

The Building Societies Association, 14 Park Street, London W1Y 4AL.



NEWS

that construction and maintenance cuts mean wartime standard of roads

Respondent growing fears and highway Britain may be road system of road or worse in result of government cuts has already by about 40 per cent and road 15 to 20 per cent are believed consideration to "using deficits on road measures of towns and were to have of heavy traffic six years seen it as a worse into the 1980s. ne road surfaces to deteriorate, re heavy lorries, ric cities and the Department ment in 1971 as for by-passes I can expect them selection of places des Shrewsbury, dster, Hereford, idford, Bishop's aster, Mazon, King's Langley, Swaffham, East ington, Chelms, Okhampton, resborough and the shorter trunk road post-Berthamsted and y-by-pass. Con- expected to start use the existing

Changes in planned public expenditure (in £ million at 1974 survey prices) for 1975-76, made since the December, 1972, White Paper on Public Expenditure (Cmd 5178) and the January, 1975, White Paper (Cmd 5675).

| | White Paper Dec. 72 | White Paper Jan. 75 | Current Plans | Change since Dec. 1972 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Mway & trunk road constr. | 515 | 334 | 313 | -33.2% |
| Mway & trunk road maint. | 45 | 52 | 51 | +13.3% |
| Local auth. transp. | 1,060 | 916 | 81 | -92.2% |
| Cent. gov. subsidies to BR | 58 | 314 | 314 | +441.4% |
| Other cent. gov. subsidies | 23 | 40 | 40 | +73.9% |
| Investment by BR | 186 | 200 | 200 | +7.5% |
| Investment by nationalized transp. indust. | 65 | 70 | 70 | +7.7% |
| Total transp. expend. in GB | 1,952 | 1,926 | 1,844 | -5.5% |

Total reductions of £277m are to be made. The distribution has not yet been settled with the nationalized industries.

narrow road, between Watford and Tring, is close to saturation point and has a high accident record. A start has been put back to the 1980s. A longer route suffering from recent cuts is the Birmingham to Nottingham motorway which in 1972 was selected for accelerated construction because of the high volume of heavy traffic on the existing unsatisfactory road through Bromsgrove, Solihull, Tamworth and Castle Donington, and its importance to the industrial Midlands since Britain's entry into the EEC. As a result of successive delays to various sections of the road, heavy traffic will not even have been cleared by next year, when the whole of it was scheduled for completion. The overall effect of existing cuts is that neither the 3,500-mile trunk road network proposed by Mr Peter Walker in

1971 nor the 3,100-mile strategic network proposed by Mr Mulley last year for completion in the early 1980s is likely to be completed before the late 1980s and possibly 1990s, if at all. The prime aim of Mr Walker's network was "to divert heavy goods vehicles and other long-distance traffic away from existing towns and villages, in particular historic towns, to give direct links to major ports, and to ensure that all towns of over 80,000 population will be within 10 miles of a trunk road". Mr Mulley's network was "aimed particularly at the needs of heavy lorries". Among other trunk roads delayed are the outer ring motorways around London both on the north and south, London to Cambridge, Liverpool to M6, the widening of the overloaded M1 near Watford, and

the south Humberside motorway. Announcing the maintenance cuts this July, Mr Gilbert, Minister, said the effects would be chiefly perceptible in reduced riding quality of roads, footway maintenance and overall appearance. The County Surveyor of Lancashire commented: "We are in danger of causing long-term damage to the structure in order to produce short-term savings." The County Surveyor of Norfolk said: "Some roads may just begin to fall apart." Road cuts have long been favoured by governments in search of economies, no doubt because they are relatively easy to make and the effect is not felt for some time, so the odium does not fall on the government making the cuts. There are no railway unions to object to road cuts; only the roads lobby, which these days is regarded almost universally as a wicked conspiracy. Cheered on by the modish if sometimes misguided environment lobbies, a transport minister can actually win popularity while making economies through road cuts: an irresistible combination. If as a result of present policies there was an actual shift of traffic from road to rail there might be some good in it but there is no. Roads retain 90 per cent or so of the traffic, and the rail subsidies are used not for extra rail investment but to cover operating costs. Nor is there any sign that a shift will occur in the future to make the postponed roads unnecessary.

London and Midland rail cuts from January

By Our Transport Correspondent

Cuts in services on British Rail's London Midland Region to save £300,000 a year are to be introduced on January 5, as part of British Rail's economy drive. Inter-City services will not be affected, but there will be a reduction in frequencies on London commuter services out of Euston and St Marylebone.

In the North-west some Sunday services will be withdrawn and weekday services will be reduced. Areas affected include:

Liverpool - Southport/Ormskirk: Some intermediate stations will close and trains will run at 45 minutes instead of 30 minute intervals. Nottingham-Leicester: The local Leicester-Nottmham service is to be withdrawn; Euston-Watford: The stopping service will be cut from 15 to 20 minute intervals, except for peak hours; Broad Street-Richmond: The service will be stretched to 30 minute intervals instead of 20; Watford-South Hampstead: The peak hour Watford-Euston and Watford-Broad Street services will run at alternate 30 minute intervals, giving a 15 minute service for all stations between Watford and South Hampstead.

Western Region last week announced service cuts to save about £500,000 a year from January. The cuts affect Paddington, Reading, Slough, Windsor and Oxford services. Eleven weekday trains are to be withdrawn and 27 altered to account the larger outlay on services will be withdrawn.

Gwynedd council asks the Government for assistance Footing the bill for bilingualism

From Trevor Fishlock Caernarvon

Gwynedd County Council, in North Wales, is asking the Government to make a substantial contribution towards the £590,000 annual cost of its bilingual policy. The result of the application is awaited with interest by the other authorities that make provision for the Welsh language in education and administration.

Gwynedd council incorporates five old counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon and Merioneth, where Welsh is the first language of more than two thirds of the people.

The bilingual policy was established to enable rate-payers, councillors, council employees and the district and community councils to use the language of their choice in their business with the county authority. It was also established to put Welsh on an equal footing with English as an "official" language, and almost all council documents are written in Welsh as well as English.

The council chamber in Caernarvon is the only one in Wales equipped for simultaneous translation, to enable the eight councillors who do not speak Welsh to participate in debates with their 58 Welsh-speaking colleagues.

The administrative cost of the bilingual policy for the next year is £73,400.

That includes £23,700 for the translating team, and takes into account the larger outlay on paper, printing costs, postage,

advertising and extra staff that a public service run in two languages requires. It also includes tuition for staff who do not speak Welsh.

Those administrative costs represent a charge to the ratepayer of a fifth of a penny.

The figures do not include costs resulting from a bilingual policy in the schools, and figures show that the biggest extra cost in a bilingual region is in education.

The primary schools of Gwynedd spend nearly £48,000 a year on additional books and the salaries of extra teachers. In the secondary schools the extra cost is nearly £460,000; more than £11,000 of it is spent on books, and £448,000 goes on teachers' salaries. The cost of further education, mainly Welsh classes for adults, is nearly £10,000 a year.

The relatively small additional sum spent in primary education compared with secondary education is explained by the fact that most primary school children traditionally get their education through the medium of Welsh, their mother tongue. In secondary schools, where there is more teaching in English, most of the extra money goes towards paying and supplying more than 100 teachers who teach Welsh language and literature.

The Welsh element in bilingual education costs the county nearly £517,000. That compares with a gross education budget of £26m, and a total council spending of £47m.

The Gwynedd authority believes that the extra cost of

maintaining a bilingual policy should be recognized by the exchequer as a special case, because support for the Welsh language is Government policy and because the principle of equal validity for Welsh and English in Wales is expressed in the Welsh Language Act.

Although Gwynedd council has a special commitment to a bilingual policy, in keeping with the strength of Welsh in its area, all the county councils of Wales and many of the districts give support in some degree to Welsh, particularly in the field of education. Gwent gives very little, but Dyfed and Clwyd give a lot, reflecting the language patterns in their areas.

Mr Joan Bowen Rees, the Gwynedd county secretary, said that the bilingual policy was proving effective. "It is not Welsh language tourism. Both languages are used freely, and Welsh is hard at work. The use of Welsh in official business is increasing. Bilingualism is not an artificial concept grafted on to the council's work, because Welsh is the first language of much of the social, business and cultural life of the region."

"The three former councils used it a lot in their day to day business. Nevertheless, there was a tradition of using English as the official language."

"Now there are two official languages, and while there are many jobs in the county council where Welsh is a requirement, there are others where it is not necessary, and people dealing with the council may write or talk in whichever language they choose."

gn doctors' worst efficiency failure rate

odgkinson worst results yet al-Medical Coun- agency test for seeking jobs in Overseas Doctors' inclosed last night using the Depart- alth and Social mervene. It says d publication of a badly damaged s the 19,000 over- n Britain. nation, introduced held monthly, is test language and eference. The GMC yesterday that 92 ndicates who took a failed, a failure- per cent, compared 10 per cent in pre- Sayeed, chairman ea doctors, said his has proposed to Dr ear of State for instead of being

pinched straight into the test the doctors should first be allowed to work a three-month attachment at a district hospital. They could be supervised during that time, but it would give them a chance to learn the pattern of medicine in Britain, and to improve their knowledge of spoken English.

The scheme should be run by the department, and ideally, language classes should form a part of it, Dr Sayeed said. The doctors could be paid at half the rate for a house officer, one of the lowest grades of junior doctor, until they passed the test and received temporary registration, allowing them to practice in Britain.

The association has asked the GMC not to publish the examination results. "The man in the street does not go deeply into the situation, and these disappointing figures affect the doctor-patient relationship", Dr Sayeed said.

says he was hoaxed kidnapping child

urton, owner of a shop, denied at Crown Court yes- he was taking aged five, daugh- ay Carr, a football- to his empty shop by the police on of Manchester. on, aged 39, of Road, Whitefield, has pleaded not napping the girl, 100,000 with men- ing a car, driving her documents, was hoaxed by a ephone caller into a girl on her way hool after being

said that his own son had been kidnapped. Under cross-examination by Miss Joyanne Bracewell, for the prosecution, Mr Anderton said that after he had left the Greyhound Hotel at Leigh with the girl his mind was in turmoil. He telephoned to his wife but did not tell her anything about his "terrible" experience. He added: "My concern was for Vanessa."

Miss Bracewell said: "The truth of the matter was that you yourself had kidnapped this child and intended to get a ransom for her yourself. Mr Anderton replied: "I did not." The trial continues today.

to hit a £50

whose family has for 15 years for accommodation was squatters broke near his prefabric- it was stated at agistrate's Court, yesterday. During gunning between and the squat- led, Michael Irwin punched Raaji later in the face requiring four as fined £50. He t: "I regret my have been wait- nce place for 15 se when you see king in across the log you to mind ness it is an un- action." aged 21, admitted y harm and was uring his mother d paying all the £12 a week home Street, Chelsea.

Judge says 'living in sin' not bar to custody

The Court of Appeal yesterday overruled an insurance broker's objections to his daughter, aged eight, being brought up by his former wife and her lover.

Sir John Pennycuik said that in earlier generations the presence of the lover would have been conclusive against the mother having custody of her daughter. But in 1975 there was nothing like the same objection to a couple "living in sin". In custody cases it was a factor to be considered, but not a decisive factor.

The court dismissed the appeal of the father, who is 38, against an order granting custody of his daughter to her mother, who is 32.

The judge said the parents were now divorced but still living in the same house in Hampshire. The mother, who had a part-time job, planned to get a two-bedroom flat in the same county and get up home with her lover, who is 35.

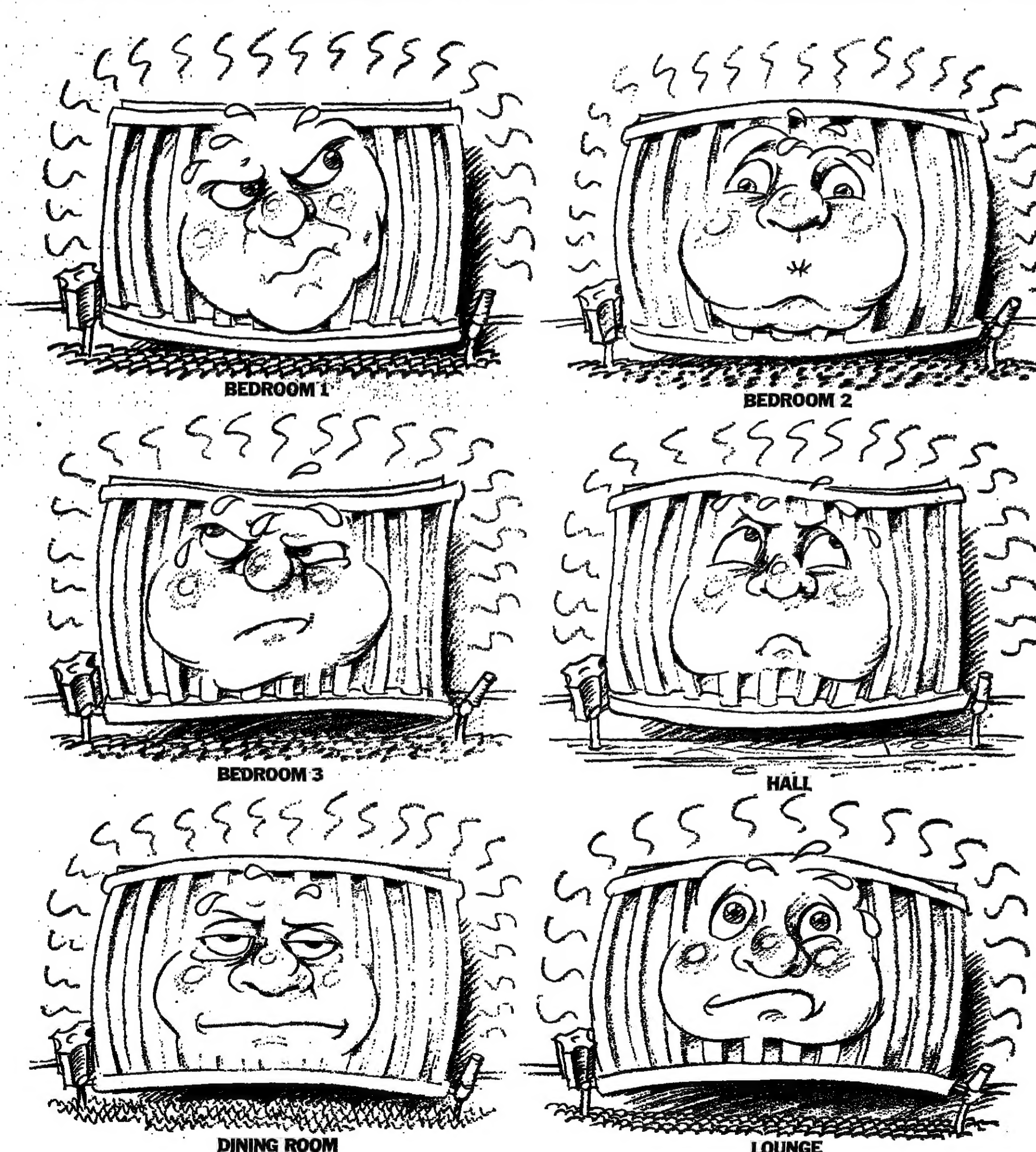
dant says shooting was accidental

who shot dead red over a quar- man, said in e Central Crim- sterday that he care her. took a loaded confronted Linda up, aged 26, but only as a bluff. was accidental, Laffan died on th of her home Blackheath, Lon- aged 27, unem- reeds Lane, Lew- aded not guilty fess Laffan. ed yesterday by Richardson, for n, Mr Mason

said his pride was hurt when he discovered that Miss Laffan was going out with another man, Mr Alan Batham. All three were members of the St Nicholas Rifle and Pistol Club at Chislehurst.

On the night of May 27, Mr Mason said, he discovered that Miss Laffan went to Mr Batham's house. He went home, picked up the loaded weapon and returned to "have it out with her."

Asked by Mr Richardson why the gun was loaded if it was intended only to scare the girl, Mr Mason said: "I took the bullets because I was not the kind of person you could bluff easily." The trial continues today.



You can't be in six places at once.

Unless you're desperate to spend money, there's little point in heating a room no one's using. Especially this winter, with the price of fuel a great deal higher than last. Most bedrooms, for instance, are almost certainly uninhabited during the day. By turning down the bedroom radiators when you get up, you'll hold down your central

heating bill without discomfort. And till the weather gets really cold, maybe you can leave them turned down. (Not forgetting to close the doors.) Your central heating probably has some other knobs worth turning. Setting your room thermostat 3°F lower this year could save as much as 15% of your fuel consumption. Try resetting your time clock to

save an hour or so of heating each day. If you're having a Sunday lie-in, why not let your boiler do the same? By making use of your central heating controls in this way, you may well use up to a third less fuel than you did last year.

Department of Energy.

Ask for advice and booklets at your Gas, Electricity or Solid Fuel Advisory Service Showroom or from your Fuel Oil Distributor.

Law Report November 17 1975

Discretion in child case: judge reversed

In *re F* (an infant)
Before Lord Justice Stamp, Lord Justice Browne and Lord Justice Bridge.

[Judgments delivered Nov 14]

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Court of Appeal

WEST EUROPE

Opposition in Bonn tries to heal rifts

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Nov 17

The warring factions in the West German Opposition met for four and a half hours in Bonn today and made some progress towards a united front for next year's federal election.

The protagonists were Dr Helmut Kohl, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), and Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, chairman of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the two parties function as one in the Bundestag but separately elsewhere, the CSU being exclusively Bavarian and the CDU operating in the other nine Länder.

Since Lord Everard and Lord Justice Harman said that it was their impression that they would have decided the case differently if the material was entirely available to the appellate court.

In an infant case the court of first instance would have heard and heard the parties and their witnesses. In *Blunt v Blunt* Viscount Simon did not say that the court could not consider the evidence, but that in such cases the reason for not interfering, save in the most extreme cases, was that of a fact-finding character than in cases such as *Charles v Charles* when the material was not equally available to the appellate court.

Of course, an appellate court had to be very conscious that it had not had the advantage of seeing and hearing the witnesses and it would obviously be more difficult to exercise discretion in such cases than the court below. But there was not any different principle applicable to the exercise of discretion when the court below had heard oral evidence. The general principle laid down in the *Blunt* case applied, although there was that special factor in its application.

His Lordship would accept that where a court could see that the court below, in exercising its discretion in an infant case, had been influenced by extraneous factors, it could decide, or probably even to a substantial extent, by its impressions based on seeing and hearing the witnesses, and that the court should be very reluctant to interfere. But he was not prepared to go so far as to say that it should not interfere even in those circumstances.

In his Lordship's view the most important factors in favour of holding that the court below had exercised its discretion in an infant case were: (1) He was the father. The choice lay not between a father and a mother but between a father and a grandmother. (2) The girl would be living with a father and stepmother in their own home, a half-sister and a half-brother. The grandmother was about 60. (3) The father had shown a sincere understanding of the grandmother's feelings and had not tried to put the child against her. That was a very important factor primarily because of its effect on the child but also because of the favourable light in which it threw on the father's character.

Unless the court was satisfied that the father and stepmother were unfit to have the care and control of the child, the father should have prevailed. The judge had set out his reasons for forming an adverse opinion of the father. It was plain from the impression that he had made on him in the witness box was not a substantial factor in his conclusion. His Lordship was satisfied that that conclusion was wrong. He would allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE BRIDGE said that the analysis of the situation by Lord Justice Browne demonstrated that the Court of Appeal was not precluded from interfering with the judge's exercise of discretion.

The factors that favoured leaving the girl with the father and his family as being in her best interests were: (1) The father would require some other very substantial consideration pointing in the opposite direction to displace that conclusion. (2) The father or the stepmother were shown to be unfit in having the upbringing of the girl that would be in her best interests. But it would be difficult to see that anything else would suffice.

The judge had expressed a most unfavourable opinion of the character of the father and stepmother. There had been discreditable incidents in the father's past and the stepmother's character was different from prevailing standards of an earlier generation. The judge's approach lacked consistency. Too much weight had been attached to those matters. They could not justify a conclusion that the father and stepmother were unfit to have the upbringing of the girl.

While it was impossible to say that the judge had exercised his discretion in favour of the father, and the mother had not been given an opportunity to be heard, the judge had exercised his discretion in favour of the father, and the mother had not been given an opportunity to be heard.

Solicitors: Lucas, Shyring & Appleby; Clifford Wark, Compton & Co for Dan and Clegg with Maude & Spark.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, November 17, 1950

Serengeti Park

From Our Correspondent
Dar es Salaam, Nov 16.—The Tanganyika Legislative Council has agreed to the setting up of Serengeti National Park, and Sir Edward Twining, the Governor, is expected to issue the necessary proclamation later this month.

Air C. Muir, the Member for Agriculture and Natural Resources, said that the boundaries of the park had been the subject of long discussion, but the claims of all interested parties were now satisfied. The Masai tribesmen in the park would be allowed to remain, and the country developed game would be increasingly disturbed in its natural habitat, and the sanctuaries. The first of such sanctuaries was Serengeti.

Quest for French literary lion dramatic to the end
Mystery winner of Prix Goncourt

From Richard Wigg
Paris, Nov 17

With five bombs, police prosecutor, bitter controversy and a still mysterious winner of this year's Prix Goncourt, this year's French literary prize-giving season has got off to the kind of start publishers anywhere in the world would dream of, especially as the violence stopped short of really hurting anyone.

The scene this morning in the Place Galliot, the site of the Drouant restaurant, where the Goncourt jury always meets, resembled the tense atmosphere of a big city kidnapping with detectives and burly plain clothes policemen everywhere. They were on guard for fresh violence after a small petrol bomb had done some overnight damage to the Latin Quarter offices of Editions du Seuil, the publishers.

But M Jean-Edern Halier, the Paris socialist and self-appointed critic of the Prix Goncourt as at present administered, was not to turn up. He had a magnificent pair of impulsive "chuckers out" the restaurant had obviously selected for a promised invasion.

The literary mystery remains, however. The winner, "Emile Ajar", the pen name of a writer, aged 35, of Jewish and Slav origins born in Nice, failed to turn up. His novel, *La Vie devant soi* (The Life Ahead of One), received the prize for the tenth year. His publishers are Mercure de France.

Joint Franco-Italian communist strategy

Rome, Nov 17.—The Italian and French Communist Parties, the largest in Western Europe, declared in a joint communiqué today that every country had the right to choose its own social and economic system without foreign interference.

The two parties also pledged themselves to multi-party politics, the right to vote and the guarantee and development of democratic institutions fully representative of popular sovereignty.

The joint communiqué was issued after two days of talks between M Georges Marchais, the French Communist leader, and Signor Enrico Berlinguer, his Italian counterpart.

It said that "in relations among all states the right of all people to decide in a sovereign manner their own political and social regimes must be guaranteed."

Attacking the pretension of American imperialism to insert itself in the life of people, the parties "pronounce themselves against all foreign interference."

The two parties also vowed to work within the parliamentary system: "The French and Italian Communist Parties declare themselves for the plurality of political parties, for the right to existence and activity of parties of opposition, for the free formation and democratic changeover between the majority and the minority."

With Roman Catholic votes in mind the communiqué came out for "religious freedom" and "the separation of church and state" between the Communists and "popular forces of Christian inspiration."

It endorsed also "the common action between Communists and Socialists."

On achieving power, the two

The winner of the critics' Prix Renaudot, announced simultaneously at the Drouant, is M Jean Joubert, a Loire-born professor of American Literature at Montpellier University, for his novel *L'Homme de Sable* (The Man of Sand), published by Grasset.

Emile Ajar was lured to Paris last week by his publisher to reassure the Goncourt jury, who feared they might make themselves appear ridiculous by "crowning" some well known literary figure. It was even whispered, before his appearance, that the novel was the steered efforts of a computer. But "M Ajar" has since been tracked down by *Le Point*, the French weekly, though the only real disclosure he would make was that he chose his pen name because he liked the euphony of the English word for a half-opened door. He had already published a novel under that pseudonym last year.

La Vie devant soi—tells of the macabre adventures of the little orphaned son of a prostitute, befriended only by an elderly Jewish woman haunted by memories of the Nazi occupation.

The institution of French literary prizes—the Goncourt assures the winner an edition of at least 300,000 copies in time for Christmas—has been attacked for several years. But this year two groups, one inspired by M Halier, the former editor of the extreme left-wing *L'Idiot International*, and the other calling itself "the revolutionary artists' group" (which claimed responsibility for to-

day's petrol bomb) have introduced "direct action" methods into the Paris literary salons for the first time.

Three members of the jury have had to endure attacks, including a fire bomb in the lift of the Paris home of Mme Françoise Mallet Joris, vice-president of the Académie Goncourt.

This has led to the arrest of M Jack Tiliouy, an unknown author, who was held on charges of possessing arms and preparing other attacks.

The essential complaint of the two groups, who seek publicity as actively as they accuse French publishing houses of doing, is that the literary aims set by the Goncourt awards at the beginning of the century have been overtaken by commercial considerations.

M Pascal Lainé, winner of last year's prix Goncourt, writing in tonight's *France Soir*, argues that "scandal" is today the only force the Prix has today providing authors with a much needed reward of income through increased sales.

"Above all do not feel any false shame," runs his advice to "Emile Ajar," telling him to go away and indicate himself, "bringing peacefully on the proceeds. This the Goncourt winner has already said he intends."

The *Man of Sand* has as its symbolic theme a defence by contemporary society of an architect's desire to build a city as he wishes. It is M Joubert's fourth novel.

W. H. Smith award, page 17.

Spanish right oppose change

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 17

Right wing Spanish politicians have warned the country against the possibility of political changes in the post-Franco era.

Senior José Antonio Giron, a former Labour Minister, and leader of the regime's Association of Civil War Veterans, said in the northern town of San Sebastian yesterday that the prohibition against political parties other than the Falange-based National Movement must be maintained.

Addressing veterans of the Spanish Blue Division, which fought against the Soviet Union on the side of Nazi Germany in the Second World War, Señor Giron said "there is an international conspiracy against Spain regardless of this country's political system."

The conspiracy is against our institutions and our society, whether they be courts of law or peaceful embassies. The conspiracy is against the very essence of our Fatherland," he added.

PEN restores German

Vienna, Nov 17.—The executive committee of the International PEN Club voted today to restore German as one of PEN's official languages together with English and French. German was dropped 41 years ago.

Committee sources said that the vote was 15 to 12. Those who opposed the move said that a third language would increase administrative costs. The six-day PEN congress, which opened in Vienna today, accepted a £7,000 grant from the Krupp Foundation, in spite of some protests.

—UPI and AP.

Explosion kills three at Madrid car plant

Madrid, Nov 17.—At least three Spanish workers died in an explosion at a Chrysler car plant near here today. They were buried under rubble when the ceiling caved in, a company spokesman said. Others were seriously injured.

Rescue workers were searching for more possible dead or injured in the wreckage of the factory, four miles from the city.

The explosion, shortly before midday, destroyed part of the building, the spokesman added. The possibility of a bomb attack had been ruled out and the company was convinced it was a gas explosion.

The factory, with a work force of 10,000, produces gear systems for Chrysler plants in Europe.—Reuter.

Wide-ranging EEC debate today on unemployment

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 17

The growing number of unemployed in the European Community will be the main focus of discussions here tomorrow at a three-sided meeting between ministers of finance and employment, the European Commission, and employers and trade unionists. Mr Foot, the Secretary for Employment, will be making his debut on the Community stage.

At a separate meeting here today EEC finance ministers were expected to hold a brief preparatory discussion of the issues to be taken up at the conference. Employment ministers also held informal preliminary talks, at which Mr Foot was represented by Mr John Fraser, his Under-Secretary.

It has taken two years to arrange a free-way conference of this kind, and even now doubts about its usefulness remain. There is, however, no question about the seriousness of the situation which ministers will be examining with the Commission and the "social partners".

This is made clear in a basic discussion paper drawn up for the conference by the Commission. There are, it says, nearly five million unemployed in the EEC at present, more than double the number at the same time last year. Industrial production is down by more than 11 per cent, on average.

Gross domestic product will show a moderate decline throughout the Community of 2.5 per cent this year, the Commission thinks.

Meanwhile in Lisbon the piles of garbage littering the streets grew for the third day as anti-communist municipal workers remained on strike against communist control of the city Government. The capital's lights and water still worked, but officials said these services could break down at any fault developed in the automatic systems.

Citing the "gravity of the internal political situation" Senhor Mello Antunes, the Foreign Minister, today called his visits to Hungary and Belgium this week.—UPI.

A move to break the Azores away from Portugal and seek

OVERSEAS

MiG attack expected on Angolan spearhead

Lusaka, Zambia, Nov 17.—Jorge Sangumba, Foreign Minister of the United Nations in Angola, has said the western-supported column heading for Luanda expects to come under the attack from Russian MiG fighter planes soon.

He told reporters yesterday that the Soviet Union and allies of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), had hoped to the rival Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) from the cap much earlier.

The Soviet-backed MPLA now holding Luanda, declared the FNLA a "terrorist" Angola six days ago when it granted independence.

The joint UN-FNLA group which set up its own government at Huambo (former Nova Lisboa) in South Angola, sent its army towards the seacoast, aiming to encircle the city and force the MPLA to surrender by cutting off water and electricity supplies.

On the other side of Luanda, a 20,000-strong FNLA force drove the MPLA 100 miles north of the capital within artillery range of water supplies.

Mr Sangumba said 400 FNLA technicians had arrived from the Soviet Union and also equipped the MPLA with 120mm and 140mm heavy artillery, he said.

The Johannesburg reported from Luanda to that the FNLA preparing heavy counter-offensive. They were announced by the FNLA army political commissar, Commander Juju, a Portuguese whose real name is Julio Almeida.

Senior Almeida admitted the situation was "very bad" south of Luanda, where armoured columns led by mercenaries had forced a withdrawal of MPLA troops and captured towns.

His statement was given despite the heavy flow of Soviet arms arriving Luanda's airport and in defiance of the FNLA's claim that it was about to launch an offensive.

Daily cargo flights bringing in sophisticated Soviet weapons, including 120mm rockets, anti-aircraft guns, artillery, armoured cars and assault rifles.

The newspaper also said the Cuban military contingent with the MPLA, estimated roughly 3,000, was being retrained in the Soviet Union. The MPLA was using the more sophisticated weapons. The Cubans were also taking a direct part in the fighting.

Windhoek, South West Africa. A Strip of No-Man's-Land, four miles wide, has been cleared along the border between South West Africa and Angola, government officials said today. Blacks living close to the border are being cleared deeper inside South-West Africa (Namibia).

The South African defence headquarters in Pretoria announced last night that an anti-aircraft missile was killed in a counter-attack against a South African aircraft.

The extent of activity in border areas in unknown. Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Defence Minister, said the South African military was heading the FNLA-Unita attack on Luanda, said: "As far as South Africa is concerned, we are looking to and defend the borders were not restorable."

Mr Jamie de Wit, South African commissioner in South-West Africa, today said: "The S. W. Air Force is prepared to operate with the Government once a stable government has been established for economic humanitarian reasons."

"If the New Government proves to us that it is prepared to maintain peaceful relations, we will no longer need for a strip of No-Man's-Land."

Kinshasa: Reports reach here from the Angolan exiles of Cabinda, northern province, that a separatist FLEC movement operating in the west of the enclave had growing resistance from MPLA forces as they were unable to prevent Cabindans fleeing Zaire. Most of the refugee youths, who have been rudimentary military training by the MPLA so they can defend Luanda, they do not want to

Fugitive Black Panther leader return to US

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 17

Mr Eldridge Cleaver, former leading member of Black Panthers, has decided to return to the United States and face arrest, according to reports from Paris. He was the American Embassy in London, and is expected to be deported to America tomorrow.

Mr Cleaver left the U.S. in 1968 after his parole was cancelled for assault on a police officer in Oakland, California. He has since been in Cuba, Algeria and France.

He was arrested in London after a long period of hiding in Europe. He is expected to be deported to America tomorrow.

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SEAS

m spent by US abroad 'in questionable practices'

Correspondent
Nov 17
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Mr Les Aspin, a
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Thus, topping the list in the report are payments of \$202m to the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation for consultant fees, political contributions and special fees to foreign agents.
The Lockheed payments primarily involve agents in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Greece and the Philippines. Behind this company comes the Exxon Corporation, with total foreign payments of \$30m, including a \$12m donation to Canadian political parties, and between \$6m and \$9m in at least partly illegal payments to Italian political parties, including \$86,000 to the Italian Communist Party.
The Northrop Corporation comes next with \$30m which is said to include secret payments to government officials in West Germany, France, Iran, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East, as well as in parts of South America. Then comes the Gulf Oil Company with political payments, primarily in South America and South Korea, of some \$5m.
The list includes such big international corporations as General Motors, ITT, IBM, McDonnell Douglas, Mobil, Occidental, United Brands, Raytheon, Merck, Phillips Petroleum, Del Monte, F&S Corp, Cigo, American Home Products Corporation, Vinnell and Ford and Chrysler in connection with legal political payments to Italy.
The Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission are deeply involved in many of these matters and have already either imposed fines or forced most of the companies to give assurances of non-repetition of similar payments. The investigators believe that all the evidence to date is merely the tip of the iceberg and that a vast number of companies have been involved in multi-million dollar questionable business practices abroad.

'differences hold up e of New York

Correspondent
Nov 17
Complete the plan
New York from
troubles have been
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in Albany, the
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has argued that

the measures he proposes are necessary in order to persuade President Ford to drop his opposition to federal assistance for New York. The Republicans, on the other hand, say that they want to be sure of the federal assistance before they agree to any such stringent measures.
The immediate pressure has been eased as a result of last week's decision to adopt a moratorium on the repayment of the principal of city notes.



After the summit: Signor Moro of Italy (left, front), Mr Wilson, President Ford, President Giscard d'Estaing, Herr Schmidt and Mr Miki of Japan at a press conference in Rambouillet

Rambouillet declaration affirms will to restore economic growth

Rambouillet, Nov 17.—The following is the full text of the joint declaration issued today at the close of the summit meeting here: The heads of state and government of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, met in the chateau de Rambouillet from November 15 to 17, 1975, and agreed to declare as follows:
1 In these three days we held a searching and productive exchange of views on the world economic situation, on economic problems common to our countries, on their human, social and political implications, and on plans for resolving them.
2 We came together because of shared beliefs and shared responsibilities. We are each responsible for the government of an open, democratic society, dedicated to individual liberty and social advancement. Our strength, indeed is essential to democratic societies everywhere. We are each responsible for assuring the prosperity of a major industrial economy. The growth and stability of our economies will help the entire industrial world and developing countries to prosper.
3 To assure in a world of growing interdependence the success of

the objectives set out in this declaration, we intend to play our own full part and strengthen our efforts for closer international co-operation and constructive dialogue among all countries, transcending differences in stages of economic development, degrees of resource endowment and political and social systems.
4 The industrial democracies are determined to overcome high unemployment, continuing inflation and serious energy problems. The purpose of our meeting was to review our progress, identify more clearly the problems that we must overcome in the future, and to set a course that we will follow in the period ahead.
5 The most urgent task is to assure the recovery of our economies and to reduce the waste of human resources involved in unemployment. In consolidating the recovery it is essential to avoid unleashing additional inflationary forces which would threaten its success. The objective must be growth that is steady and lasting. In this way, consumer and business confidence will be restored.
6 We are confident that our present policies are compatible and complementary and that recovery is under way. Nevertheless, we recognize the need for vigilance and adaptability in our policies. We will not allow the recovery to falter. We will not

accept another outburst of inflation.
7 We also concentrated on the need for new efforts in the areas of world trade, monetary matters and raw materials, including energy.
8 As domestic recovery and economic expansion proceed, we must seek to restore growth in the volume of world trade. Growth and price stability will be fostered by maintenance of an open trading system. In a period where pressures are developing for a return to protectionism, it is essential for the main trading nations to confirm their commitment to the principles of the OECD pledge and to avoid resorting to measures by which they could try to solve their problems at the expense of others, with damaging consequences in the economic, social and political fields. There is a responsibility on all countries, especially those with strong balance of payments positions and on those with current deficits, to pursue policies which will permit the expansion of world trade to their mutual advantage.
9 We believe that the multi-lateral trade negotiations should be accelerated. In accordance with the principles laid down in the Tokyo declaration, they should aim at substantial tariff cuts, even eliminating tariffs in some areas, at significantly expanding

agricultural trade and at reducing non-tariff measures. They should aim at achieving the maximum possible level of trade liberalization. We propose as our goal completion of the negotiations in 1977.
10 We look to an orderly and fruitful increase in our economic relations with socialist countries as an important element in progress in détente, and in world economic growth.
11 We will also intensify our efforts to achieve a prompt conclusion of the negotiations now under way concerning export credits.
12 With regard to monetary problems, we affirm our intention to work for greater stability. This involves efforts to restore greater stability in underlying economic and financial conditions in the world economy. At the same time, our monetary authorities will act to counter disorderly market conditions, or erratic fluctuations in exchange rates.
13 We welcome the rapprochement reached at the request of many other countries, between the views of the United States and France on the need for stability of the international monetary system must promote. This rapprochement will facilitate agreement through the IMF at the next session of the

interim committee in January on the outstanding issues of international monetary reform.
14 A cooperative relationship and improved understanding between the developing nations and the industrial world is fundamental to the prosperity of each. Sustained growth in our economies is necessary to growth in developing countries, and their growth contributes significantly to health in our own economies.
15 The present large deficits in the current accounts of the developing countries represent a critical problem for them and also for the rest of the world. This must be dealt with in a number of complementary ways. Recent proposals in several international meetings have already improved the atmosphere of the discussion between developed and developing countries. But early practical action is needed to assist the developing countries.
Accordingly, we will play our part, through the IMF and other appropriate international fora, in making urgent improvements in international arrangements for the stabilization of the export earnings of developing countries and in measures to assist them in financing their deficits. In this context priority should be given to the poorest developing countries.

16 World economic growth is clearly linked to the increasing availability of energy sources. We are determined to secure for our economies the energy sources needed for their growth. Our common interests require that we continue to cooperate in order to reduce our dependence on imported energy through conservation and the development of alternative sources. Through these measures as well as international cooperation between producer and consumer countries responding to long-term interest of both, we shall spare no effort in order to ensure more balanced conditions and a harmonious and steady development in the world energy market.
17 We welcome the convening of the conference on international economic cooperation scheduled for December 16. We will conduct this dialogue in a positive spirit to assure that the interests of all concerned are protected and advanced. We believe that industrialized and developing countries alike have a critical stake in the future success of the world economy and in the cooperative political relationships on which it must be based.
18 We intend to intensify our cooperation on all these problems in the framework of existing institutions, as well as in all the relevant international organizations.—Reuter.

Mrs Moore fit for trial on Ford charge

From Peter Stralford
New York, Nov 17
Mrs Sara Jane Moore, who is accused of trying to assassinate President Ford in San Francisco on September 22, was today found competent to stand trial. The ruling was made by Judge Samuel Conti after Mrs Moore had undergone about seven weeks of testing at a psychiatric centre in San Diego.
She is accused of having shot at Mr Ford as he left the St Francis hotel in San Francisco. It was the second incident of the sort in one month, coming less than three weeks after a similar one in Sacramento, after which Miss Lynette Fromme was charged

with trying to assassinate Mr Ford. Miss Fromme's trial has already begun in Sacramento.
Before making his ruling on Mrs Moore, Judge Conti heard evidence from two psychiatrists, both of whom told him that she met the criteria set by the United States Supreme Court on competency to stand trial. Judge Conti also asked whether they considered Mrs Moore had the ability to confer with her lawyer with a reasonable amount of rationality, and was told she did.
Dr Robert Eardley, one of the psychiatrists, was also questioned by Mr James Hewitt, the lawyer appointed to defend Mrs Moore. He conceded that she had experienced periods in the past of emotional turmoil and that, if she

came under stress, she might have difficulties.
Mrs Moore is a former informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies. The trial date has been set for December 15, but may be postponed if Judge Conti agrees to take account of the time she spent under psychiatric investigation.
Japanese Premier's
attacker jailed
Tokyo, Nov 17.—Hiroyoshi Fudeyasu, a member of an extreme right-wing group, was jailed for two years by a Tokyo court today for assaulting Mr Takeo Miki, the Prime Minister, at the funeral of Mr Eisaku Sato, the former Prime Minister, in June.—Reuter.

Congressmen sue two Cabinet officers

Washington, Nov 17
In a further action against members of President Ford's Cabinet, 25 Congressmen today sued Mr Rogers Morton, the Commerce Secretary, and Mr Thomas Kleppe, the Secretary of the Interior, in connexion with the Arab boycott of Israel.
Their suit seeks an order restraining the two officers and their departments from promoting trade between American firms and Arab nations which have blacklisted companies trading with Israel.
They also seek an end to alleged American Government cooperation with the Arab boycott by selecting firms for Government projects in the Middle East.

Athens march in tribute to Polytechnic dead

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Nov 17
Hundreds of thousands took part in a march to the American Embassy in Athens tonight to mark the second anniversary of the Polytechnic uprising in 1973, which acted as a catalyst for the downfall of the military dictatorship.
The demonstration assumed special significance this year as it coincided with the trial of 30 junta men charged in connexion with the massacre that came after the revolt.
Mrs Ioana Tsonou, the wife of the President of the Republic, and the Minister of Education were among those who laid wreaths in tribute to the Polytechnic dead.

The march, which culminated in the three-day celebrations, set out from the Polytechnic. There was a sea of red banners and the dominant slogans were anti-American. "Out with the Americans", the marchers shouted, "Down with the death bases", and "Get out of Nato for good".
The choice of the United States Embassy as the terminal for the march was mystifying. Although the Americans are blamed for almost anything related to the dictatorship, no one ever suggested that they had had any connexion with the events at the Polytechnic.
It was clear that the Communists were trying to monopolize the anniversary.

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December issue, out now

their prop forward, Jim Mills, until January 2. He was banned after being sent off while playing for Wales against New Zealand in the World Championship match on November 2.

Widnes are basing their appeal on the grounds that they are being punished for something which happened in an international, claiming that any sanction should not carry to club football.

Show jumping

TORONTO: Prix des Nations: 1. United States 7, private club; 2. France 12; 3. Canada 24; 4. Poland 26.

Tennis

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina champions defeated Perutz and P. Borocucci beat J. Fassbender and H. Pohnmann.

2m.
 Happy Call, b. g. by Town Crown.
 French Leaugher, W. Kendrick.
 4-11-2 ... M. James 3-0-1 fav.
 1 ... F. M. ...
 Jug ... F. G. ... 1-11-9 R.
 ... Chamblin 7-1-1 2
 ... b. f. by King Bob ...
 ... W. R. Owen ... 3-10-7
 ... A. Bradford 18-1 3
 ALSO RAN: 1-1 Keyward Leading.
 1-1 Ladyraish, 10-1 The Globe, 12-1
 Silver, Low Bench, Oh Jimmy, Royal
 Request, 12-1 Highway Robbery, Peace
 1-1 Guide, 1-1 ...
 1-1 ...
 1-1 ...
 1-1 ...

30 12.53 LEICESTERSHIRE SILVER
 FOX STEEPLECHASE (Handicap)
 31.525 2nd min
 Charles Moore, ch. b. by Charlotte-
 ville-Sterling, Brle Mrs J. W.
 Wain, 6-10-7 G. Turner 3rd 3
 S. Sear, h. s. by Wily Tover
 Belinda, Lord Moosy, 6-10-7
 D. Cartwright 11-2 2
 Southern Lad, h. s. by Kahala-
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 G. Faulkner 6-5 fav. 2
 ALSO RAN: 33-1 Fael Free (4th), 4
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Show jumping
TORONTO: Prix des Nations: 1. United States 7 penalty mis; 2. France 10; 3. Canada 24; 4. Poland 28.

Tennis
BUENOS AIRES: Argentina championships. A. Panatta and P. Bertolucci beat J. Fassbender and H. Pohmann, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

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 ALSO RAN: 33-1 Fael Free (4th), 4
 an.
 TOTL: Wip. 299; Forecast, 55p. T.
 orator, Wantage, 31, 41.

3.30 (3.31) **STOUTHON HURDLE**
(Div H: £500; 2m)
Marshdown, b g, by Saint Vincent—Queen's Delight (A. Grogan), 5-10-5
A Grindstone (C. J. 1
The Subject, by V. Mademo
Irene O'Day (C. Richmond Wals-
ton), 5-10-10 A. Webster (11-2) H
Blahbawanna, ch s, by Eastern
Venture—Kilometer (Capt. J. George), 10-10-3 D. Speck (14-1) 2
ALSO RAN: 100-300 yds. Charlie
Tip, 10-11-1 Ballymore, 10-11-1
Commonwealth Games, 10-12-1 Rebel
Band, 8-1 Prince Paul, 14-1 Sam All

5-10-13 Mr. F. Bull 17-1: 3
 ALSO RAN: R-1 Crown Bird, 16-1
 Coyote (18h), Some Speck (f), 27-1
 Negro, Golden Pistol, Old Pulky,
 Tartan Rock, 10 ran.
 TOTE: win, 16p; places, 10p, 5p, 11p.
 150: total forecast, 27p. G. W.
 Richards at Fumthi 2'd, 3'd.

1.45 (11-57) DRYBROOK STEEPLE
 CHASE: Navies: 2:40: 2' 3/4"
 Wexley Lad, b. s. by Tarlton—
 Bow Green (H. Lee), 6-11-0
 J. J. O'Neill (o-d) 1
 Old Stephen, br. s. by Master Owen

2 5 3 48. MAUGHLINE STEEPLE-
CHASE (Handicap: E157: 3m 3f
30yd)
Feb. 8, by Centab-Ballade (1-1)
Sainier, 6-11-0 C. Tinker (8-2) 1
Centab, 8, by Centab-Fire
Forest, J. Lister, 6-10-15
T. Slack (9-4) 2
Amble, by s. by I Saw-Low
J. Douglas, 6-11-7
T. Slack (15-8) 3
ALSO RAN: 11-2 Duorobin (4th)
ran.
NOTE: Win. \$50; Precap. \$7.27.
C. O'NEIL at Bowick 1, 121.

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FLOATING SUMMIT

is one safe rule about international conferences. The issues under discussion are fewer and less specific than the conclusions. At first sight a summit at Rambouillet would seem to have the rule to perfection. A declaration issued by the summit is imprecise, general and to more than one effect.

It would be a mistake to think that nothing of importance happened at the meeting. The summit itself was a few steps the heads of state implicitly affirmed their present international order. They have done this despite the existence of a wide economic crisis so and so stubborn that many have begun to doubt the order, initiated at Woods in 1944, could be maintained.

International economic of the 1950s and 1960s successful in achieving growth of world output. Its dependence on three main pillars, the liberalization of trade, an orderly structure of exchange rates, and the stability of the dollar and the increasing availability of raw materials and

the mid 1970s all seem threatened. Recession to a revival of protectionism in certain countries, divergent economic policies have caused the erosion of fixed exchange rates and the increasing availability of raw materials and

undermined the strength of the dollar; and, finally, the commodity price explosion of 1973-74 has made the assumption of cheap and abundant raw materials appear too complacent.

The discussions at Rambouillet have centred around these three problems. The outcome, at least for those who believe that the existing order is the best guarantee of rising living standards and greater international cooperation in future years, is reassuring. No important departure from the system in the 1950s and 1960s, apart from continued exchange rate flexibility, seems to be contemplated. The leaders' determination to proceed with further trade liberalization in the next round of negotiations is particularly encouraging. One of the few discordant notes at the conference was Mr Wilson's statement that Britain would retain its freedom over imposing selective import controls if circumstances made them necessary.

The agreement between the United States and France over exchange rates is, perhaps, even more important. The Americans have in the recent past consistently favoured flexibility, while the French have urged a return to greater exchange rate stability. The Americans seem to have made some concession to the French view because they now promise that central bank intervention to smooth currency fluctuations will be undertaken if appropriate. But, in fact, the concession is only a token.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, in conjunction with European central banks, does intervene at present to check erratic movements which it considers at variance with underlying economic and financial conditions. The latest American attitude can be described, at

most, as a shift of emphasis. Some might feel that even that was an exaggeration.

The American resistance to rigid exchange rates does not arise solely from a doctrinaire preference for the operation of market forces in international trade and finance. It is also supposed to guard vital national interests. In the late 1950s and early 1960s the United States felt that they were obliged to pursue restrictive monetary policies to support the external value of the dollar. These, they believe, checked economic growth and contributed to the loss of economic power to Europe and Japan.

The Americans, on these arguments, do not want this situation to continue. But other countries also have an interest in exchange rate flexibility, particularly in a period of economic disorder. It enables governments and central banks to follow monetary policies they believe appropriate to domestic circumstances and greatly increases their freedom of manoeuvre in economic management. Britain, for example, would have had to face a far more severe recession in 1974 and 1975 if it had not been able to depreciate the pound and stimulate exports. The danger of course is that the freedom given by floating rates will actually be used in an inflationary way.

Some disappointment may be expressed that the six leaders have tended to compare notes and exchange views rather than reach definite and emphatic conclusions. But it may be that history will judge the Rambouillet conference as valuable because the participants were prudent by deciding so little, not rash by deciding too much. An outbreak of "beggar-my-neighbour" policies on the scale of the 1930s now seems remote.

IDENT Nyerere's STATE VISIT

Nyerere's state visit, begins today will no longer provide occasion for a review of African problems. The acceptance of the invitation is that he has buried the past with him for so long and at British Rhodesian and other policies. It is now obvious that there is no British government but await the outcome of talks between Mr Smith and Nyerere and hope that the axis in Lusaka and Pretoria will bring about a solution which he will not give his views on détente, has made some strange claims, and he might find it formidable in the guerrilla training camps in Rhodesia, where arms are decided differences, will be

another topic. The President must find the sight distressing. He has become associated with China (which built the Tan-Zam railway from which Tanzania has so far made most of the profit). China strongly opposes Russia and the MPLA, yet it is with the MPLA with whom Tanzania's sympathies might be expected to lie, if only because that party is more Marxist and less tribal than the other two, and because South Africa is backing them. Possibly Britain's position, less involved though presumably alive to western interests, may appeal to him. But it seems too late for any joint appeal for non-intervention.

Tanzania's domestic position is strained. Zanzibar has substantial reserves, but Tanganyika's are very low, and the economy is depressed by the recession and the effects of past droughts. The creation of a new collectivist agriculture based on village co-operatives has caused suffering,

is not complete, and so far leaves the country in need of food imports. As one of the 25 poorest developing countries, Tanzania has had much aid from world agencies. Britain has also helped to buy out the white farmers who farmed well but do not fit into the socialist agricultural planning.

Mr Prentice has reorganized Britain's aid priorities in favour of the poorest countries and of rural and agricultural development, so Tanzania would seem a candidate for more. But Britain, like Tanzania, is having to borrow, and there is not much to pass on. Labour circles have always admired Mr Nyerere's socialism and his intellectual rigour, and in the conflict between social aims and hard economic facts they may find useful experiences to exchange despite the differences between one nation that is "developing" and one that having neglected itself needs to redevelop.

THREAT OF ANOTHER COD WAR

breakdown of Mr. Hare's talks in Reykjavik there is a real danger of another war between Britain and Iceland.

That is disturbing for the British. British trawlers can be given naval protection to continue within the new 200-mile limit in Iceland but are not allowed to fish in international waters. The International Law of the Sea Conference next year may well agree on such a figure. If that happens Iceland will have every right to require others to observe the limit that she has now imposed without legal authority. But that will not mean that Iceland any more than any other country can ignore the attitudes and interests of her trading partners. If Britain imposes a 200-mile limit, that will affect Icelandic herring fishing. Still more important is Iceland's trade agreement with the EEC, the most important part of which has been blocked by the Germans because of their fishing dispute with Iceland. That dispute is probably about to be resolved but Iceland cannot expect that the EEC agreement will be implemented in full so long as

for British trawlers to be enabled to continue fishing in Icelandic waters under precarious conditions on a day-to-day basis. They need the security of a long-term agreement.

Iceland needs such an agreement too. It is true that international opinion has moved in favour of a much more in favour of a 200-mile limit for territorial waters and that the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference next year may well agree on such a figure. If that happens Iceland will have every right to require others to observe the limit that she has now imposed without legal authority. But that will not mean that Iceland any more than any other country can ignore the attitudes and interests of her trading partners. If Britain imposes a 200-mile limit, that will affect Icelandic herring fishing. Still more important is Iceland's trade agreement with the EEC, the most important part of which has been blocked by the Germans because of their fishing dispute with Iceland. That dispute is probably about to be resolved but Iceland cannot expect that the EEC agreement will be implemented in full so long as

she is in serious conflict with any member of the Community.

The question, therefore, is what scope there is for compromise. There should be some despite the intransigence at Reykjavik. Under the arrangement which expired last Thursday there was provision for British trawlers to fish about 130,000 tons a year in what Iceland claimed as her territorial waters. That settlement ran from 1973 and marked the end of the previous Cod War. British interests would be well satisfied now with a simple renewal of that bilateral agreement. But that is no longer practical politics. The total amount of cod fishing in the area needs to be reduced for the sake of conservation and it is reasonable that British fishing should be cut back to some extent along with the rest. But British trawlers should not be asked to contribute more than their fair share to the cause of conservation in one of their traditional fishing grounds. Yet at least the disagreement was only over the amount of British fishing in the area, not the principle. When an agreement is so much in the interests of both sides that ought not to be too wide a gulf to bridge.

Service pay

Gillian D. Williams
Rupert Evans's figure on remuneration being paid civil servants—whether abroad—to send their children to boarding schools are correct. November 15, I hope to appreciate what this is. A direct subsidy is being paid to the private sector. This is surely most and if I were a public servant, I would be feeling compromised. By the way, hostile to the private sector is the private sector.

Finally, D. WILLIAMS, 4 Mansions, Road, W9, 16.
S. C. Pigott
attribution to Mr Rupert Evans exposing so lucidly the scandal of Civil

Service pay and perquisites. Senior home civil servants and diplomats serve us with integrity and honesty. Like many clever men, however, they often lack common sense and, sometimes, humility. Why else should they have sold their political masters the notion of "comparability" with industry, commerce and the professions? How could public service compare with work where ill-luck, wrong decisions or incompetence mean the sack?

By indexing their pensions to the cost of living, our mandarins have gone too far. Only demerit (by going to Downing Street?) can now dispel their power.
Yours faithfully,
S. C. PIGOTT,
38 Rivermill,
151 Grosvenor Road, SW1.

From Mr Peter Burnstone
Sir, Mr Rupert Evans (November 15) does not need to use force of vice pay and pensions to argue for an improvement in the amount of

qualifying premiums for the self-employed to keep pace with inflation.

May I suggest two changes? First that the limit of 15 per cent be raised to 25 per cent with a maximum of £5,000 yearly, and second that this percentage be based upon gross earnings and not, as the legislation requires, upon "net relevant earnings" is gross earnings after deduction of mortgage interest and other charges.

On the question of financial assistance to pay school fees, does Mr Evans really believe it is fair to expect the diplomat to take his child away from school because he has a posting in the United Kingdom and may not be able to afford to pay the school fees?
Yours faithfully,
PETER A. BURNSTONE,
122/133 Well Court,
Queen Street, EC4,
November 16.

We feel that the scurrilous tone of your leader was directed to the wrong people. This dispute was

Dismissal of Mr Whitlam

From Professor Colin Howard
Sir, Your editorial on the dismissal of Mr Whitlam by Sir John Kerr (November 12) is an exercise in the surreal. You have failed to appreciate the incredulity with which the news was first greeted across the country and the sense of shock which followed. In consequence you have not analysed the reasons for this reaction. You have also, owing to doubt, to incomplete information at the time, omitted to take into account the questionable way in which Sir John carried out the operation. You manage as a result to credit him with common sense and imply that he displayed statesmanship. On the contrary, there are now a great many voters of all shades of opinion in this country who are asking themselves if they need enemies with a friend like that.

We are in the midst of a political and constitutional crisis which was already beginning to cause some hardship and much inconvenience. Whitlam and Mr Fraser had both taken stands on points of principle. Public opinion, which not long ago was well against Mr Whitlam on his record, had moved rapidly and decisively in his favour. This showed not merely that the majority thought that he was right on this particular point but also, and most importantly, that the community at large felt itself deeply and directly involved in the issue.

The quality of public comment was high and the result of the community appeared to be one of moderate, self-disciplined determination to see the thing through and force both sides to seek a political accommodation. The hope was to preserve the primacy of the House of Representatives without destroying Mr Fraser. Clear signs were emerging that behind the intransigent rhetoric, politicians were responding to this sentiment. There was still plenty of time for it to be so.

Out of the blue we were suddenly told that the merely titular non-elected head of state had taken the matter out of our hands in a manner which offended against just about every canon of parliamentary government and could only call to mind a few examples:

1. He dismissed the Prime Minister who held the confidence of the House of Representatives without giving him the slightest inkling of what was proposed.

2. He acted without consulting his own law officers but after secret consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, who may well have to adjudicate at some future time on the validity of his actions.

3. He acted on the basis of assumptions of fact the correctness of which could only be proved by a referendum.

4. He purported to dissolve both Houses of Parliament without any demonstration that he possessed constitutional power at the relevant time to do so. The existence of that power is highly questionable.

5. He purported to dissolve the Senate which had passed the budget legislation and the new Prime Minister had lost a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives. This meant that Mr Whitlam would perfectly well have continued to govern and Mr Fraser should certainly have resigned. The Governor-General failed to receive official notice of the vote in the House only because he declined to receive the Speaker before the purported dissolution.

6. He installed a government

which does not have the confidence of the House of Representatives under circumstances which enable it to govern without parliamentary sanction and to run its election campaign with all the advantages of a government in office.

Sir John Kerr has not acted with wisdom or propriety. He has acted in paternalistic manner more befitting a politically immature colony than a responsible independent nation. His liberal powers under the constitution are nothing to the point. It is perfectly clear from our classic commentary on the constitution by Quick and Garran (see for example pages 406 and 685), published in 1901, that those powers were from the outset intended to be exercised only on the advice of his ministers. Until now they always have been. As for the Senate's refusal to pass Supply, it is known to every Australian that this had nothing to do with safeguarding the states. It was a straightforward political power-play, also without national precedent until last year.

It is no wonder that many Australians feel alarmed and indignant. Some dangerous passions have been unleashed. Sir John Kerr was extremely misguided to appear to give his official sanction to what were no more than tough tactics by the Opposition which the community was in the process of evaluating for itself.
Yours faithfully,
C. HOWARD, Hearn Professor of Law,
University of Melbourne Law School,
Parkville,
Victoria, Australia.
November 14.

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter
Sir, There is one point in Philip Howard's most interesting article (November 12) on the duties in the House of Representatives of the Queen and of her Governor-General which I would wish respectfully to challenge.

So far as the Queen's duties in the United Kingdom are concerned, he instances the case of a government which was seeking, without the justification of an emergency or the agreement of the opposition, to repeal the Quinquennial Act as an example of a case in which Her Majesty might dismiss her Government. But surely she has a simpler and more relevant action to open to her. That is simply to refuse her assent to the Bill. That puts the ball neatly back in the ministers' court. They can either drop the Bill, in which case a dissolution follows automatically at the end of five years under the existing law, or they can advise an immediate dissolution. Or they can resign, in which case their successors, being *ex hypothesi* without a majority in the Commons, would advise an early dissolution. Which of these things happen the matter would be promptly referred to the electorate.

And the Queen would be spared a general confrontation with her ministers and the party which supported them. Her difference with them would be limited, and manifestly seen to be limited, to the point in which she was clearly right and her action would be confined to preserving the electoral rights of her people.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.
November 14.

From Mr J. E. Humphrey
Sir, Mr Michael Foot, apropos the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, complains that the House of Lords is challenging democratic authority. For my humble part, I believe most people are thankful for its lawful function of resisting any sort of bulldozer which, in the cause of dogma, easier exercises of power, sectional interests, legislative uniformity, or anything else, threatens to sweep away an essential freedom. Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
5 Offington Gardens,
Barnet, London, NW4,
November 13.

From Mr J. Osborne
Sir, It is manifestly not "fair to point out that the recent stoppage on the Daily Express, which spread to the rest of Fleet Street, was caused by an engineers' pay claim in breach of the TUC's own policy of a 5% a week limit on settlements" (Leader, November 15). Firstly, the disputed increase at the Daily Express was in fact negotiated before the 5% limit was imposed; the attitude, therefore, of the TUC or anyone else towards the merits or otherwise of this policy is not relevant to the present case. Secondly, there was no "stoppage on the Daily Express" until the management there chose to sack members of our union who were carrying out mildly irritating action (working from their locker room) in furtherance of a dispute. Up until the time that our members were sacked the other engineers considered the issue at the Daily Express to be domestic. However, it ceased to be a domestic issue when 96 of our members were sacked and it was then that we decided unanimously at a mass meeting to cease work until our members were reinstated. Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers members in Fleet Street are intelligent men and understand only too well the precarious position of our jobs and those of other print workers at the present time. That is why it is necessary for us to maintain and develop our solidarity.

We feel that the scurrilous tone of your leader was directed to the wrong people. This dispute was

brought about by the high-handed behaviour of the Daily Express management who were clearly in the wrong. It is still 1785. Yours, etc.
J. OSBORNE,
Father of the AUEW Chapel,
The Times,
New Printing House Square,
Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

From Mr V. C. Carr
Sir, It has to be admitted that the trade union's treatment in the press can be, and very often is, less than fair. Mr Magee (article, November 10) conveniently forgets that television is infinitely more unfavourable to management and industry. The union point of view is inevitably the theme of many programmes with management being given little chance to put a balanced point of view. Union leaders are often given an understanding hearing not accorded to management.

We would all clearly like to see a more accurate and responsible style of reporting in both media. I do not really believe that people concerned with the media will understand how their performance can make worse an already difficult situation. Good industrial relations is a key to overcoming present economic difficulties. They deserve it.
Yours faithfully,
V. C. CARR,
3 Hillcrest,
Penley,
Near Wrexham, Clwyd.
November 10.

Industry and the press

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Psychology methods used by police

From Sir Geoffrey Jackson
Sir, The article "The gentle art of brain-washing" by William Sargent (your issue of Wednesday, November 12) left me worried. I have only thought to comment on its implication, however, on reading today (November 15) another press report on the writer, a leading psychologist, has been invited to the United States in connection with the Pan Herma case. So on psychology it is not a new subject. Sargent's House, Dr Herma's virtue and non-violence have triumphed. All its previous drift, however, attributes to the police brain-washing techniques of suggestion, and ignores the obvious fact that the police are not in the business of brain-washing. In isolation these implications blur the frontiers of right and wrong, at least as I have seen them.

Any captive is axiomatically under pressure. On the innocent victim, however, that pressure is used by his captor to condition a normal person and situation into a state of abnormality—loss of identity, false confessions, etc. On the cornered kidnapper or terrorist the contrary the pressure is used to restore an abnormal situation, and peep, back to the normality of respecting their victim's life.

It seems to me ambivalent to bracket "legally constituted" and "jealousy invigorated" police force, striving to draw madhouse back to sanity, with the converse situation described for example, by Solzhenitsyn. It may be said that the situations are in essence the same; but an analysis which confuses and equates their utterly different legal and moral sanction and motivation does no service to our free society and those who are seeking to preserve it against arbitrary violence. Any account of such excesses must remain a warning, not so long as it reflects the absolute difference between the innocent victim and his policeman, on the one side, and the Gestapo mind, in uniform or out, on the other.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY JACKSON,
638 Glogau Square, SW1.
November 15.

From Mr John Sparrow
Sir, The story of the captivity and release of Dr Tiede Herrema—his herculean endurance, courage and magnanimity, his patience, firmness, and self-restraint of the police engaged in rescuing him—is surely one of the most moving dramas of recent times.

I was, therefore, shocked to read Dr William Sargent's article on the subject (November 12). Dr Sargent, by his description of police practices as follows: "The police may take in anyone as a suspect and interrogate him or her on and off for five consecutive days... Suspected terrorists may, in some cases, now be held for questioning for longer periods. The result of these inter-

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Catholic liturgy

From Mr F. A. Donnellan
Sir, In your generous and gentle lead (November 8) following the death of Cardinal Heenan, you said something like "Catholics who wish to take Communion out of coffee-cups".

This is not only sweeping; as far as Catholics in England are concerned, it is also quite unjust. While it is true that there are English Catholics who, among themselves, would like to see a more flexible liturgy of the Eucharist, I doubt that there are any who would wish to treat the Sacrament as lightly as your "coffee-cups" idea would imply.

I have myself taken Communion in a way which would be frowned on—or at least by English bishops—both in England and in Ethiopia; ordinary bread is used, and ordinary wine; the bread is received in the hand, not on the tongue; the participants pass the Sacrament to each other. Coffee-cups are for afterwards.

In these celebrations, I have never noticed any reduction in the reverence in which the Sacrament is held by those receiving it—if anything, the opposite is the case. What is impressive is the atmosphere of peaceful love which characterizes such celebrations.

It is a mistake to dismiss this as "Communion in coffee-cups". The fact that you have done this shows that the late Cardinal taught you little about charity.

Yours etc.
TOM DONNELLAN,
PO Box 98,
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Public debate on defence

From the Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships
Sir, Having recently returned from a visit abroad, the aim of which was to discuss Soviet naval affairs, it was interesting to find the article by Miss Mary Kaldor in your issue of October 29 and the subsequent correspondence.

Our freedom to express opinions, so different from the situation in the USSR, imposes a duty to ensure the accuracy of the facts on which those opinions are based. Miss Kaldor's facts are, as has been pointed out, regrettably inaccurate in many places. At a time when, as Professor Buchanan (November 6) points out, the whole array of Western defence is wide open to public inspection as never before it is reasonable to hope that truth about NATO could be achieved. So far as the Warsaw Pact figures are concerned it can only be claimed that those published are best estimates derived from many sources, some of whom, despite Dr Cox's appeal (November 10), must remain anonymous for their own well being.

The known facts on the Soviet navy can be based in fair measure on close-range observation now that the ships of the fleet are deployed worldwide. Such analysis must be the province of the "experts" whom Miss Kaldor castigates but whose standing she does not attempt to define. One definition of an expert is "one with familiar know-

ledge" and had the authors used such knowledge she would have avoided some of the major errors in her article. Quite rightly she states the counting game and then proceeds to use it herself. The subsequent trial at which the accused would be to the knowledge of the officers telling a pack of lies. Yours faithfully,
D. P. F. WHEATLEY,
Chelton Road,
36 Berwyn Road,
Richmond,
November 14.

From Mr P. Versker
Sir, Perhaps the last word may be found in the story of I. M. Keynes and Lord Castro on board ship. Keynes responded to the notice on his neighbour's cabin door "CATS" by inscribing on his own door "DOGS".
Yours truly,
PATRICIA VESKER,
73 Cunliffe Close,
Oxford.
November 11.

From Mr Monja Danishevsky
Sir, The dog/cat confrontation: "Cry, 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war?"
Yours faithfully,
M. DANISCHEWSKY,
North Lodge,
Bourne, Surrey.
November 11.

gations is the "voluntary" signed statement, which the police are asked to sign. Dr Sargent proceeded: "Exactly the same methods are being used (he was writing a week before the siege actually ended) in the Herrema kidnapping case. The victim and his kidnappers are trapped and kept under controlled tension and progressive nervous fatigue" [my italics].

In such circumstances, Dr Sargent went on to say, "people can be made to sign statements... which will perhaps secure them a life sentence... Stress must be gently applied, be varied, but basically persistent." We should not criticize the police at Monasterrein, he concluded: "After all, ordinary police get the most extraordinary confessions by this method, if given the time, without any need to beat up the suspect."

In short, the kidnappers were "trapped" and "kept under controlled tension for a prolonged period, at the risk of Dr Herrema's life, in order to compel them to sign a 'voluntary' statement. That this was Dr Sargent's reading of the situation is made still clearer by the suggestive title—"The gentle art of brain-washing"—under which his article was published, and by the caption—"induced fatigue and stress"—of the photograph of the kidnappers with which it was illustrated.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SPARROW,
Oxford.
November 16.

Confessions by accused

From Mr D. P. F. Wheatley
Sir, The suggestion that there should be an independent element during the interrogation (your editorial October 18) or that confessions made by suspected persons should only be admitted in evidence if made to a magistrate (Mr Rajan's letter of November 13) surely neglect the practicalities of a police investigation.

Experience shows that the "moment of truth" frequently comes at the very beginning of a police investigation. The burglar surprised at the open safe may really say "who graced on me" or something like that. It is only later explanation that he had merely mistaken the house for that of himself or a friend. Is this important evidence to be excluded in his later trial because there was no recording device or because he refused to repeat it later to a magistrate? If so, many innocent men will be excluded from the trial at which the accused would be to the knowledge of the officers telling a pack of lies.

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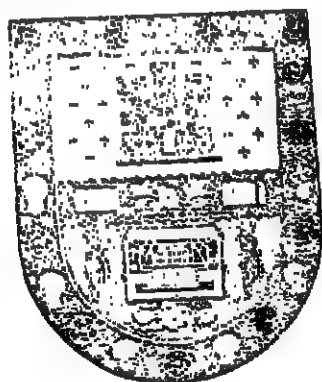


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"Midland Bank helps us provide a service rather than just products"

-John Robinson, Managing Director of Trutex Limited at Grindleton, Clitheroe



Trutex Limited has its headquarters beside a quiet salmon river on a stretch of Lancashire moorland.

"In one form or another, and on the same site," says John Robinson, "this company has been involved in textiles for 109 years.

"At the beginning, we manufactured textiles. But now we have twenty factories, a work force of around 2,000 people, and make children's school and leisure clothes. In fact, we are a leading supplier through both small retailers and large groups.

"Our growth reflects two objectives—to rationalise continually in the interests of efficiency, and to provide an important service rather than a mere range of products.

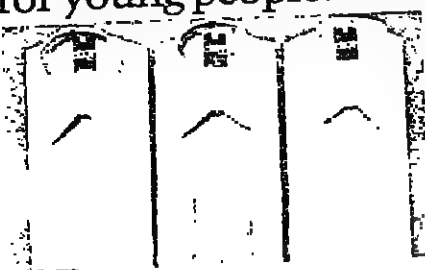
"But it is fair to add that we would have found it difficult to achieve either objective without the help of Midland Bank."

Changing with the times

"We've banked with the Midland since 1915," says John Robinson, "and they have helped us in many ways to adapt ourselves to new conditions.

"In recent years we have specialised in children's school wear, but now we have also developed a range of colourful leisure wear for young people. To do so we have had to expand considerably,

and Midland Bank has helped us in our acquisitions and building programmes. Forward Trust another Midland Bank Group company, has also been of assistance with loans for the purchase of new machinery and equipment."



Continued development

"One essential for continuing development," says John Robinson, "is our good working relationship with our staff.

"All our production units are small and friendly, and new arrivals in the company often ask us why our employees feel they are letting themselves down if they don't give 101 per cent effort.

"Another essential is our excellent working relationship with Midland Bank. Our confidence is based on the many years we have done business together, and on the high standard and range of services provided by Midland Bank Group."

Your local Midland branch can provide you with further details on the range of services available from Midland Bank Group.



Midland Bank Group

Principal trading companies: Midland Bank Limited, Clydesdale Bank Limited, Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Limited, Clydesdale Bank Insurance Services Limited, Scottish Computer Services Limited, Northern Bank Limited, Northern Bank Development Corporation Limited, Northern Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited, Northern Bank Trust Company Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Guernsey) Limited, Midland Bank Finance Corporation Limited, Forward Trust Limited, Midland Montagu Leasing Limited, Griffin Factors Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Jersey) Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Guernsey) Limited, Midland Bank Insurance Services Limited, The Thomas Cook Group Limited, Thomas Cook Limited, Thomas Cook Overseas Limited, Thomas Cook Bankers Limited, Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited (Incorporating Drayton), Drayton Montagu Portfolio Management Limited, Northern Bank Finance Corporation Limited, Midland Montagu Industrial Finance Limited, Jersey International Bank of Commerce Limited, Bland Payne Holdings Limited, Bland Payne Limited, Bland Payne Reinsurance Brokers Limited, Bland Payne (UK) Limited, Southern Marine & Aviation Underwriters Inc, Bland Payne Australia Limited, Guyerzeller Zumont Bank AG.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 17. Dealings End Nov 28. 3 Centage - 1.
 † Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Chartered Surveyors · Estate Agents
London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

[illegible]

Lovell
 for CONSTRUCTION

 ng the most
 closure
 ployees,
 21

Economy is aiding for rpest decline 44 years

Westlake
 this year almost
 witness the sharpest
 economic activity
 severe decline in
 the beginning of the
 slump.
 the contraction of
 y in 1975 is certain
 to be much smaller
 931 decline, it will
 ss far exceed any
 over the inter-
 years.
 ry Government fig-
 ured yesterday by
 Statistical Office
 in the first three
 1975 there was a
 er cent in Britain's
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 ed to show signs of
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economic activity of
 not certain to lead
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 our Party for some
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 lation.
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 es for the gross
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 economic activity,
 of less than 1 per
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 ter.

will be the fourth
 quarter in which
 mestic product has
 active 2 to 2½ per
 of the whole year
 mid 1974) will rep-
 re the third year since
 fall in total nat-
 ional product.
 has occurred.
 previous years, in
 1950, were compar-
 0.7 and 0.12 per
 cent. The 1951 de-
 crease of 6 per cent
 was broadened by the
 measures by the gross
 product figures in-
 duction, distribution,
 transport and other
 is the first two
 responsible for the
 overall contraction
 quater.

production, ac-
 cording to the
 1975, has shown a
 striking decline this
 in it will likely to
 han West Germany
 this year, according
 forecasts, although
 than Japan and the
 U.S.

figures published
 the Department of
 owing the level of
 demand for goods in
 ret, provide little
 of any early re-

Five questions on Haw Par put by Singapore MP

Mr Hon Sui Sen, Singapore
 finance minister, has been
 requested to make a statement
 to Parliament on Thursday on
 the progress of his government's
 investigations into the affairs of
 Haw Par Brothers International.
 Mr Hwang Sui Jin, a member
 of the Singapore Parliament,
 has sought replies to five
 specific questions.
 He asks what further evidence
 has been obtained to substantiate
 allegations against those
 former directors of Haw Par
 who had participated in Spyder
 Securities.
 In July Mr Hon Sui Sen
 alleged that Haw Par sold
 quoted securities of its sub-
 sidiaries at well below
 prevailing market prices, but
 no official evidence or charges
 have yet been produced. Mr
 Jim Slater, who resigned as
 chairman of Slater, Walker
 & Co., is alleged to have been
 a beneficiary of Spyder.
 The second question asks
 what steps have been taken to
 ensure the cooperation of the
 authorities in Kuala Lumpur
 and London.
 Thirdly, Mr Hon Sui Sen
 asked whether he will inform the
 House of the reason why Mr
 Graham Singapore lawyer
 resigned his position as chief
 government inspector into Haw
 Par last month.

etail settles for 6pc

17.—The wage
 the IG Metall
 approved a settle-
 ment of 6 per cent pay
 230,000 iron and
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 'estphalia and
 G Metall spokes-
 tee is authorized
 agreement final
 be original union
 per cent against
 employer offer of
 12 per cent.
 ations were the
 us of wage talks

| GDP | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Gross domestic product at constant factor cost (1970=100) and seasonally adjusted: | | | | | |
| Year | Based on 1974 data | Based on 1975 data | Based on 1976 data | Based on 1977 data | Average 1974-1977 |
| 1972 | 102.9 | 103.3 | 104.6 | 104.0 | 103.7 |
| 1973 | 103.4 | 103.7 | 104.4 | 103.5 | 103.8 |
| 1974 | 103.5 | 103.3 | 103.7 | 103.8 | 103.8 |
| 1975 | 101.8 | 99.1 | 101.5 | 100.8 | 100.8 |
| Q1 | 104.4 | 103.8 | 104.5 | 104.2 | 104.2 |
| Q2 | 103.8 | 104.2 | 105.3 | 104.4 | 104.4 |
| Q3 | 105.8 | 106.9 | 107.7 | 106.6 | 106.6 |
| 1976 | 111.3 | 108.4 | 110.7 | 110.1 | 110.1 |
| Q1 | 109.1 | 109.2 | 109.8 | 109.4 | 109.4 |
| Q2 | 109.3 | 108.5 | 110.8 | 109.5 | 109.5 |
| Q3 | 108.1 | 108.8 | 110.5 | 109.1 | 109.1 |
| 1977 | 107.2 | 103.8 | 107.7 | 106.2 | 106.2 |
| Q1 | 110.8 | 103.8 | 110.2 | 110.1 | 110.1 |
| Q2 | 113.1 | 111.8 | 111.2 | 112.0 | 112.0 |
| Q3 | 110.9 | 112.4 | 108.7 | 111.0 | 111.0 |
| 1978 | 111.2 | 108.3 | 108.4 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| Q1 | 109.0 | 108.8 | 108.4 | 107.4 | 107.4 |
| Q2 | 108.0 | 108.8 | 108.4 | 107.4 | 107.4 |

* Preliminary estimate

RETAIL SALES AND HP

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Industry:

| Sales by volume | | New credit released | |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Year | 1971=100 | Year | 1971=100 |
| 1972 | 105.8 | 2,487 | |
| 1973 | 110.7 | 2,871 | |
| 1974 | 109.9 | 2,517 | |
| 1975 | 111.8 | 761 | |
| Q1 | 108.3 | 881 | |
| Q2 | 110.8 | 717 | |
| Q3 | 110.8 | 712 | |
| 1976 | 109.8 | 576 | |
| Q1 | 107.3 | 614 | |
| Q2 | 111.0 | 648 | |
| Q3 | 111.8 | 679 | |
| 1977 | 111.5 | 723 | |
| Q1 | 108.7 | 758 | |
| Q2 | 105.3 | 733 | |
| 1978 | 111.4 | 231 | |
| October | 112.8 | 224 | |
| November | 110.8 | 224 | |
| December | 110.8 | 224 | |
| 1979 | 113.0 | 246 | |
| January | 112.3 | 234 | |
| February | 112.4 | 234 | |
| March | 120.2 | 271 | |
| April | 120.2 | 271 | |
| May | 104.5 | 247 | |
| June | 104.5 | 238 | |
| July | 104.7 | 246 | |
| August | 104.9 | 235 | |
| September | 106.0 | 262 | |
| October | 105.0 | — | |
| Provisional | — | — | |

covery in the British economy.
 They suggest that the volume
 of retail sales last month was
 rather lower than in September
 when there were tentative signs
 that a mild recovery in con-
 sumer demand might have been
 under way.
 As a result, the level of
 spending in the months April
 to October 1975 was below the
 average of the fourth quarter of
 1974 and the early months of 1975,
 allowing for seasonal influences.

How the markets moved

The pound received a fillip
 in the foreign exchanges yester-
 day from the apparent agree-
 ment at the six power economic
 summit that there should be
 no further intervention in the
 pound's exchange rate.
 The dollar's strength resulted
 in sterling falling 140 points
 against it, closing at \$2.0325.
 This is the pound's lowest level
 since 1947.
 Similarly, the pound's "flo-
 ating devaluation" again ended
 the session at a level equivalent
 to its weakest-ever level, at
 29.7 per cent.

On other pages

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Chrysler hears conditions for UK aid

By Maurice Corina
 A tentative offer of industry
 Act assistance aid, but con-
 ditions is believed to have been
 put to the Chrysler Corporation
 of America in the resumed
 government talks about its British
 subsidiary's future
 operations.
 Any state aid will be condi-
 tional on substantial funds
 being raised in parallel by the
 United States car group and
 backed by assurances on the
 marketing of a new European
 car to be made in Britain and
 capable of export to the Middle
 East and United States markets.
 Yesterday, Mr John Ricardo,
 chairman of the Chrysler Cor-
 poration, accompanied by Mr
 Don Lander, managing director
 of the United Kingdom sub-
 sidiary, met Mr Varley, the
 Secretary of State for Industry,
 to hear the Government's re-
 sponse to various points raised
 at their last meeting on Novem-
 ber 1.
 Mr Varley was supported by
 Mr William Ross, Secretary of
 State for Scotland, and, for the
 Treasury, by Mr Edmund Dell,
 the Paymaster General and an
 expert on government-industry
 aid problems.
 There was no official confir-
 mation after the hour-long meet-
 ing, which began at noon, that
 the Government was willing to
 provide financial aid. But some
 sources said discussions were to
 continue between the Chrysler
 management and Whitehall
 officials led by Mr Peter Carey,
 Second Permanent Secretary
 (Industry).

These talks, which follow up
 points raised between Mr Var-
 ley and Mr Ricardo, will un-
 doubtedly explore in more
 detail the financial require-
 ments of Chrysler UK in the
 next few years, with forecasts
 of the market for new Euro-
 pean car models designed in
 association with Chrysler
 (France).
 There is a plan for a new car
 to be made in Britain, but the
 Chrysler Corporation seems
 reluctant to put up the develop-
 ment funds in view of its world-
 wide financial problems.
 Mr Ricardo is known to be
 sceptical about the future of
 the British subsidiary, which
 employs 27,000 workers. Reports
 yesterday that the parent cor-
 poration wants to hand the
 company over with all assets,
 liabilities, orders, and goodwill
 were not denied in Detroit.
 There, a spokesman said it
 was hoped to resolve the issue
 of a further aid package as
 soon as possible—hopefully this
 week. But in London, White-
 hall sources suggested that
 negotiations could drag on for
 some time before any firm de-
 cision was made.
 This would seem to suggest
 that if the Government is will-
 ing to provide some funds to
 keep Chrysler UK going, then
 Mr Ricardo would be per-
 suaded to provide commensurate
 support.
 If Chrysler Corporation pulls
 out, it will not be the end of
 the matter, for the Government
 is very much aware that Chry-
 sler (France) will become the

even more cars into Britain and
 tearing up written undertakings
 given to Whitehall about manu-
 facturing operations in the Mid-
 lands and Scotland and export
 performance.
 Although there are undoubt-
 edly differences of view among
 ministers, the disadvantages of
 not coming to the rescue of
 Chrysler have been spelled out
 clearly in reports prepared for
 meetings under the Prime
 Minister's stewardship.
 These are the enormous costs
 of redundancy payments, now
 guaranteed by the state, and
 unemployment benefits. The
 number of jobs lost if Chrysler
 UK was shut down would be
 higher than the payroll because
 of the component supply con-
 tracts involved.
 Heavy liabilities range from
 car warranties to trade credi-
 tor bills and the Government
 itself has a further unsecured
 loan outstanding.
 However, the most persuasive
 argument for offering some
 financial help on conditions is
 the threatened loss of exports
 worth £100m a year and the
 loss of a further 10,000 jobs in
 parts, since British Leyland,
 Ford and Vauxhall will not
 necessarily gain Chrysler's
 present market share of about
 7 per cent.
 Given the present franchise
 territories of existing home
 manufacturers, Chrysler dealers
 would tend to turn to foreign
 car suppliers to save their busi-
 nesses—and importers are

main European base, bringing
 known to be on the lookout for
 newcomers to their networks of
 sales outlets.
 Chrysler UK has itself some
 important dealerships in direct
 ownership.
 All these are strong argu-
 ments for trying to save
 Chrysler. Against them is the
 risk of the Treasury being
 landed with an open-ended
 commitment.
 There has been a clampdown
 in Whitehall on news of the dis-
 cussions. A Chrysler spokesman
 said: "Mr Ricardo wants the
 whole thing kept to himself, if
 you like, and this is the way he
 is keeping it. To a large extent
 the Government feels the same
 way, as I understand it."
 However, it is known that
 Chrysler UK cannot raise addi-
 tional banking support without
 state guarantees, though pre-
 sent funding is continuing nor-
 mally, helped by short-term
 money supplied from America.
 If there is to be a Whitehall
 rescue, the possibility of gov-
 ernment participation in the
 equity alongside the Chrysler
 Corporation seems a likely
 basis for an offer under the
 Industry Act's aid to industry
 provisions.
 But the Government would
 want not only assurances from
 the Chrysler Corporation on
 development and marketing
 policies but also some tangible
 commitment from the
 trade unions on productivity and
 any necessary reorganisation of
 productive facilities.

Government approves rescue plan for NVT

By Clifford Webb
 Outline approval has been
 given by the Government to a
 rescue plan for Norton Villiers
 Triumph, which, for the
 motorcycle company to continue
 business in a small building
 adjoining its main plant at
 Small Heath, Birmingham.
 It is understood that NVT
 management want to complete
 a number of partly-built
 Triumph Trident machines at
 Small Heath, and then cease
 motorcycle manufacturing for
 the time being.
 Fewer than one hundred
 people would be employed pro-
 ducing spare parts while NVT
 attempts to find the finance
 necessary to resume full
 manufacturing.
 A key factor in the proposal
 is the continuance of profitable
 sub-contract work for other
 firms, including Massey
 Ferguson and Dowty. This can
 only be done, however, with the
 approval of the Receiver now
 in charge at Small Heath.
 A creditor's petition, seeking
 the compulsory winding-up
 of NVT Manufacturing—the
 Small Heath operation—was
 adjourned for seven days in the
 High Court yesterday to give
 creditors time to study the
 rescue plan.
 Counsel appearing for the
 company's receivers, Charles
 Aldous, said that the plan had
 been given outline approval by
 the Government.
 Mr Hugh Paine, an NVT
 director, said last night: "We
 have to obtain the approval of
 a lot of people before we can
 go ahead with proposals to set
 up a remnant of NVT. We want
 to extricate the barest minimum
 necessary for us to make a fresh
 start."

US and France pact on currency intervention

From Charles Harrope
 Paris, November 17
 The most concrete result of
 the Rambouillet meeting was
 the signing by Mr William
 Simon, United States Secretary
 for the Treasury, and M Jean-
 Pierre Fourcade, the French
 Finance Minister, of the text
 which is not being published
 at the time being down in
 detail the conditions under
 which the American Federal
 Reserve system and the Bank
 of France would intervene to
 prevent "erratic" fluctuations
 in the exchange rate between
 the dollar and the European
 "mark".
 This agreement was endorsed
 by the finance ministers of
 the other four countries taking
 part in the meeting.
 It was described by Herr
 Helmut Schmidt, the West Ger-
 man Chancellor, in his state-
 ment at the close of the meet-
 ing as an important compromise
 between the French and American
 standpoints on exchange rates.
 And Mr Hesley, the Chan-
 cellor, had to go off to a
 Community finance ministers'
 meeting in Brussels, was quoted
 by Mr Wilson as saying that it
 had "substantially broken the
 back of the problem faced by
 the Jamaica conference in
 January."
 Both sides have gone a very
 long way and we are delighted
 with the result", the Prime
 Minister stressed.
 The tendency on the Ameri-
 can side, however, was to play
 down the extent to which the
 United States government had
 agreed to move away from its
 position on free exchange rates.
 "There was no agreement of
 any kind on fixed rates", Mr
 Simon told the Press after the
 end of the meeting. "We talked

about a system to prevent rapid
 fluctuations".
 American comment on this
 exchange problem and on the
 Rambouillet meeting as a whole
 was extremely succinct. Be-
 cause President Ford had let-
 out a briefing of the press, and
 did so in his aircraft on the
 way back to Washington.
 But what was agreed goes
 much further than that. The
 text, President Giscard
 d'Estaing said, was a "pre-
 liminary agreement" which
 falls into two parts. The
 first is an analysis of the world
 economic and monetary situa-
 tion, which concludes to the
 need to work toward a stable
 exchange system by reducing
 fluctuations.
 The second part defines the
 contents of the new version of
 Article Four of the revised
 statutes of the IMF on ex-
 change rate fluctuations. "The
 problem here had been
 disagreement between France
 and the United States on this
 point. Now it is settled", the
 President said. It remained for
 the text to be approved by the
 partners of France and the
 United States in the IMF,
 which was why it was not being
 published yet.
 Three levels of consultation
 are provided for by the text
 signed by the two finance
 ministers and endorsed by their
 colleagues.
 The first is that of governors
 of central banks who are to
 meet frequently to review the
 exchange position.
 The second is that of the
 exchange control authorities in
 the six countries. And the
 third is the finance ministers.
 Asked for a definition of
 "erratic" exchange rate vari-
 ations, the French President
 refused to talk in terms of
 percentages.

Optimism boosts share prices

By Our Financial Staff
 Views that the stock market
 is set for further strong gains
 seemed to overtake all other
 considerations in London yester-
 day, as a new account started
 out a briefing of the press, and
 did so in his aircraft on the
 way back to Washington.
 But what was agreed goes
 much further than that. The
 text, President Giscard
 d'Estaing said, was a "pre-
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 ations, the French President
 refused to talk in terms of
 percentages.

BSC importing steel from European rivals to supply customers

By Peter Hill
 Industrial Correspondent
 With thousands of its workers
 on short time the financially
 distressed British Steel Cor-
 poration is to import huge quan-
 tities of steel from its European
 competitors to fulfil major home
 market contracts. The purchases
 are believed to involve about
 100,000 tonnes with an esti-
 mated value of £13m.
 This action comes at a time
 when trade unions are pressing
 the Government to implement
 import controls on selected
 goods to protect the jobs of
 British workers. The foreign
 purchasing scheme by the BSC
 is geared particularly to meeting
 the requirements of the motor
 industry, and reflects the cor-
 poration's anxiety not to let
 down its home market cus-
 tomers, as it did last year.
 But the steel unions are not
 happy about the European pur-
 chases, particularly in the light
 of the BSC's insistence on more
 redundancies and the prospect
 of further short-time working.
 At the same time, the unions'
 ability to challenge the action is
 constrained to some extent by
 the fact that the corporation
 could claim that the need to
 resort to foreign suppliers is
 partly the result of industrial
 disputes and technical difficul-
 ties at key plants.
 Whatever the background to
 the BSC's move, it will almost
 certainly spark off a storm when
 Parliament reassembles tomor-
 row. Some steel-making com-
 munity MPs made it clear
 that they would be pressing
 the Government to legislate
 urgently against imports of
 foreign steel.
 The corporation, which yester-
 day reported a first half-year
 loss of £125m coupled to a
 forecast that it would lose well

over £300m in the current
 financial year, is operating
 most of its plants at a substan-
 tially reduced level because of
 the worldwide slump in steel
 demand. The recession is
 expected to continue until at
 least the second half of next
 year.
 BSC marketing executives
 have been out scouring the
 country, indeed the world, for
 new orders, and it seems their
 efforts paid off recently. But
 with contracts to supply sub-
 stantial quantities of steel to
 the motor industry and to other
 consumers, it became clear that
 the BSC's own facilities would
 not be able to meet the con-
 tract terms in the first
 quarter of next year.
 The BSC has been dogged by
 labour disputes, even during
 the present recession, and has
 also been hit by technical
 problems. Key factors among
 constraints on BSC is the £27m
 blast furnace at Llanwern, in
 South Wales, which has been
 shut down since its completion
 earlier in the year as a result
 of a dispute with the blast
 furnacemen. A Court of Inquiry
 report into the dispute is
 expected shortly.
 Although the BSC last night
 was unable to comment form-
 ally on the embarrassing im-
 port situation, it is believed that
 executives have been trying to
 deal with European producers,
 including those in Holland, for
 some weeks.
 Long-term strategy: Announc-
 ing yesterday that Britain's first
 two direct production steel
 plants are to be built at Hun-
 terson, on the Clyde, Sir Monty
 Flitton, BSC chairman, ap-
 pealed to the Government not
 to allow short-term recession
 plans.

Challenge on coal imports

By Ronald Kerhew
 Mr Arthur Scargill, the York-
 shire miners' president,
 yesterday challenged Mr Arthur
 Hawkins, chairman of the
 Central Electricity Generating
 Board, to justify importing
 £52m worth of Australian coal
 at £24.4 a ton dearer than
 British coal. Mr Scargill
 revealed that in a private meet-
 ing with Mr Wedgwood Benn,
 Secretary of State for Energy,
 Mr Benn had expressed concern
 at the situation and had agreed
 to look into the matter.
 After a meeting of the York-
 shire area National Union of
 Mineworkers executive commit-
 tee yesterday, Mr Scargill said
 that about five million tons of
 coal had been imported from
 Australia at a cost of £52m.
 Stocking costs, he claimed,
 would add £20m to £25m to the
 bill. As a consequence, British
 people were paying more for
 electricity.
 Such coal, said Mr Scargill,
 could be produced from British
 pits. "I hope that the
 Government will stop import-
 ing coal immediately. They ask
 people to give a year for
 Britain. Loyalty works both
 ways."

largely by the producers, to
 double that amount.
 So far Britain is the only
 other country to join France
 and The Netherlands, which
 contributed under the old
 agreement, in agreeing to play
 a part. Making the British an-
 nouncement, Mr Eric Varley,
 Secretary of State for Energy,
 said that the basis of the con-
 tribution had still to be decided.
 The financial committee of
 the Tin Council yesterday gave
 the council the go-ahead to bor-
 row £20m for the buffer stock
 operations. This is in addition
 to the existing £16m facility.

Britain signs tin agreement

By Wallace Jackson
 Commodities Editor
 Britain announced yesterday
 that it was signing the fifth
 International Tin Agreement at
 United Nations headquarters in
 New York, and would be mak-
 ing a financial contribution to
 the buffer stock of the Inter-
 national Tin Council.
 Under the agreement, which
 comes into force on July 1 next
 year, consumer countries are
 called upon to make voluntary
 contributions of cash or metal
 to increase the buffer stock
 of 20,000 tonnes, financed

largely by the producers, to
 double that amount.
 So far Britain is the only
 other country to join France
 and The Netherlands, which
 contributed under the old
 agreement, in agreeing to play
 a part. Making the British an-
 nouncement, Mr Eric Varley,
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 operations. This is in addition
 to the existing £16m facility.

How Standard Chartered helps you with your business in Oman

If you have business in Oman,
 The Chartered Bank can offer you a
 full and comprehensive service. Our
 branches there are ready to help you
 with the same professional approach
 and depth of local knowledge that
 characterises the Bank throughout
 the Eastern world.
 The services and resources we
 offer you in Oman are backed and
 strengthened by the world-wide
 capability of Standard Chartered
 Bank. We have a unique network of
 1500 branches and Group offices in
 60 countries throughout Europe,

Africa, Asia, the Middle and Far East,
 Australia and the Americas.
 So, for instance, we can help your
 business by exceptional speed in day-
 to-day transactions—saving you time
 and money, because you have the
 same Group working for you here
 and overseas.
 And there are many other ways in
 which Standard Chartered can help
 you.
 Give Mr. E.G.H. Bower, Business
 Development Manager, a call in
 London on 01-623 7500, Extn

Accounting formula gets support by banks

London clearing banks are lending their weight to the compromise formula for inflation accounting which was recommended earlier this month by the professional accountancy bodies.

In a statement yesterday, the banks said they were sympathetic to the current cost accounting system proposed by the Sandilands Committee, although they felt that time should be given for the practical testing of their system on the accounts of their company customers before it took its final form.

But they outline a big reservation, echoing that expressed by the accountancy bodies, regarding Sandilands's recommendations on the treatment of net monetary assets. The accountants described Sandilands's method of accounting for non-monetary assets, but wanted supplementary information to be given to show the change in purchasing power of shareholders' interests.

The banks say the treatment of this item "raises fundamental issues affecting all holders of net monetary assets, which will have to be dealt with".

With this reservation, they urge on the Government "the vital necessity to speed discussions so that proposals may be agreed without delay and the resulting benefits accrue as soon as possible".

Scotch for Germany
A British wine company is to supply on-label Scotch whisky for sale in Germany's largest food retailing chain. The company, Haas Ueber UK, will supply Edeka, which has 29,000 sales outlets and a turnover of £2,500m and in return, the firm will take over distribution of the wine produced by Danbury, France's third largest wine group.

Iraq complains to Opec about 'disruptive' Kuwait oil price cuts

By Roger Vielvoys
Energy Correspondent

Iraq has called for a special meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to discuss differences with Kuwait over oil prices, the Iraq News Agency reported yesterday.

In a note to the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad, the Iraqi Government said cuts in the price of Kuwait's oil "could create disruption in the oil market and inspire competitive bidding among producers".

Iraqi complaints followed last week's announcement by Kuwait that it was reducing its crude oil costs by 10.2 cents a barrel

to \$11.30 a barrel, in line with the lower sulphur and quality differentials introduced in other parts of the Gulf.

Since a general price rise of 10 per cent was introduced on October 1, many countries, with the approval of Opec, have trimmed the quality and sulphur differentials imposed when the oil market was buoyant and could stand additional premiums.

Although Opec has set broad guidelines for adjusting the premiums, it is up to individual members to interpret them. The organization hopes to tackle the differential problem at its meeting in December.

Saudi Arabia has reduced the premiums on heavy and medium crudes while retaining the light crude oil at its "market" prices of \$11.50 a barrel.

The influential Petroleum Intelligence Weekly says that the Saudi and Kuwaiti realignments will undoubtedly put strong pressure on Iran to reduce its \$11.95 sales prices for 31 degrees gravity heavy crude.

If Iran took similar measures the price would drop by 9 or 10 cents a barrel. PIW also reports that third party customers for Kuwait's oil think that the 10.2 cent reduction is insufficient, and that the price should be reduced to at least \$11.10 a barrel.

CBI warning on extension of dock labour scheme

By Tim Jones

Dockers could cripple the country and hold Britain to ransom if proposed Government legislation to extend the national dock labour scheme becomes law, members of the Confederation of British Industry claimed yesterday.

Mr Campbell Adamson, director-general of the CBI, said that if the legislation goes through, dockers could control the food supplies, raw material imports, and exports. The proposed legislation could also lead to an increase in industrial unrest and inflation spiral.

CBI members believe that under the proposed legislation, which will bring all warehouses, cold stores and other installations within a five mile radius of the docks under the dock labour scheme dockers will have a power disproportionate to their numbers and influence.

The dockers' unions have argued that because of containerization and other changes they have been deprived of jobs which were traditionally theirs.

Mr G. K. Lawrence, chairman of the Food and Drink Industries Council, said: "In the event

of a dock strike, the dockers would have complete control over the nation's food supplies as all that would be left would be the food remaining in manufacturers' hands and in the shops."

He claimed that in the event of a strike, the nation would have the choice of yielding immediately to the strikers' demands or facing starvation. Hugh Clayton wrote: "An appeal to the Government to reconsider its decision to extend dockwork was made yesterday by Mr Kenneth Webb, president of the United Kingdom Association of Food Producers. He told Mr Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, who was chief guest at the association's annual lunch: "We view this possibility with great concern."

Mr Webb, who is chairman of Birds Eye Foods, said: "It has been estimated that the proposal could raise operating costs by £100m a year and affect many of the people in this room whose factories, including my own, are situated in and around dock areas."

Mr Peart replied: "I realize the difficulties you face, and I will say no more at this stage."

Opportunities for UK in Cuba, Mr Shore says

By Our Political Staff

There are good opportunities for British industry to help in re-equipping Cuba's ageing sugar mills, suggested Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade yesterday, on his return from a visit to Mexico and Cuba.

Mr Shore, who was the first British Cabinet minister to visit Cuba since the revolution, said that modernization of the sugar industry was a high priority for Cuba, since most of the machinery was American, and thus the country had been unable to obtain spare parts for about 15 years.

He said that there were also much needed about the modernization of their ports to improve capacity, and their general transport infrastructure. This was another area in which he believed British firms could play their part.

He pointed out that Britain's exports to Cuba were running this year at twice the level of 1974, and he thought there were opportunities. Officials from the Department of Trade will be talking to interested British companies.

Notification of price rises eased last month

Price rise notifications being made to the Price Commission are continuing to drop, according to the commission's monthly report for October.

Notifications during the month were running at an average of 9.3 a working day compared with 10.2 in September, 10.9 in August and 14.8 in July. The figures reflect the commission's assertion that there are encouraging signs of inflation slowing down.

In October the commission rejected 11 price rise notifications; 26 were withdrawn by the companies involved, and 61 were modified by the commission.

Petrol from Forties crude on sale

First supplies of petrol blended from Forties North Sea crude went on sale in British Petroleum service stations in the Grangemouth area of Stirlingshire yesterday. Other oil products containing a blend of Forties crude will be on sale in Scotland within a week.

Ship export hopes

Japan's ship export target of 5 million tons gross for the fiscal year which ends next March is expected to be achieved, according to the Japan Ship Exporters' Association yesterday. According to the organization, its members have secured orders for more than 3 million tons gross of shipping over the past seven months compared with 1.9 million tons in the corresponding period of last year.

France confirms deficit

France had a seasonally adjusted trade deficit in October of 1,575m francs (£175m) compared with September's surplus of 92m francs, and a deficit of 1,489m francs for October, 1974. Imports were at their highest level this year at 20,278m francs, and exports were 20,144m francs. Over the first 10 months of this year France had a trade surplus of 7,056m francs.

£3m chemical spending

New investment amounting to £3m has been announced by chemical companies against the background of a general slowdown in spending by the chemical industry. Shell Chemical UK is to spend £1.5m on a new plant at its site at Carrington near Manchester and Ciba-Geigy Chemicals is to spend more than £1.5m as part of a £5m plant near Grimsby.

Japan's deficit widens

Tokyo, Nov 17.—Japan's balance of payments deficit widened to \$800m (about £380m) in October, from \$104m in September, preliminary figures released by the Finance Ministry show. The deficit, the third straight monthly shortfall, compared to a surplus of \$351m in October last year.—Reuters.

Business appointments

Mr Bowey to be next chief of PLA

Mr William Bowey becomes director-general of the Port of London Authority on April 1. He will succeed Mr John Lunn, who has been granted leave, retires from the position of director-general on March 31.

Colonel George Brown has been appointed to succeed Mr Henry Porter as chairman of the Newcastle Breweries, and Mr N. D. Stephenson will succeed Colonel Brown as managing director of the Newcastle Breweries, and Mr Alastair Mowat will take over Mr Stephenson's responsibilities as director, group managed houses.

Mr J. F. P. Parsons has been named non-executive director of Fothergill & Harvey.

Mr T. R. Ansell has resigned his directorship of Cadbury Schweppes to devote more time to personal business interests.

Mr Charles Craft, managing director of the building division, John Laing Construction, will become chairman of the division on January 1. He is a member of the parent board of John Laing and Son. Mr Leslie Holliday will become managing director of the building division.

As a result of the proposed deal between Gerard & National Discount, the Murray-Jones group and European Oriental Investments, Mr Paul Murray-Jones has resigned as chairman and chief executive of the Murray-Jones group but will remain a consultant for three years upon completion of the acquisition. He also resigned from the board of Gerard & National Discount. Mr Hilton Clarke will be joining the Murray-Jones board as a non-executive director.

Mr R. J. Reynolds, chairman and managing director of NCR's British company, will become vice-president, Europe on December 31. He succeeds Mr George Havens, who will retire on April 30. Mr Reynolds will continue as chairman and managing director of the British company.

Sir Michael Young-Harries is to join the board of National and Commercial Banking Group on January 1.

Mr Desmond Pilling, managing director of Mintra, a member of the BBA Group, is to become managing director, Europe, of a new company BBA Automotive, being formed to direct the group's world-wide automotive activities. He will also become chairman of Mintra.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Problems of industrial legacy

From Mr Correlli Barnett.

Sir, To refer to our industrial shortcomings as being a postwar pattern as did the Prime Minister and your first leader today (November 6), is to take altogether too superficial a view. It cannot be enough repeated that the characteristics of Britain as an industrial society can be traced back at least a hundred years. The new NEDC report does no more than repeat what the Balfour Committee on Trade and Industry said in 1929; what the reports of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy said in 1918; what *The Times* said in a series of articles in 1900-1 on "The Crisis of British Industry"; what various Royal Commissions and parliamentary committees back into the 1860s said.

Try this on your friends: when was the following statement made? "Our only hope of national prosperity lies in the timely remodelling of our system, so as to put it as nearly as possible upon an equality with the improved management of the Americans." Answer: 1835—a warning uttered by Richard Cobden after a visit to the United States.

Our present weaknesses were in fact structured into the very texture of our industrial patterns and attitudes by our special experience as the first in-

dustrial nation, and under conditions of virtually unmitigated laissez-faire. What we are now up against is not merely a problem of industrial reform, but the legacy of the last 200 years of our history. To overcome this legacy will require more than just another hopeful report; more than just a continuation of the patching and fudging of successive governments, patching and fudging sanctioned by a public opinion which thus far has fudged adjustment to reality because it will be uncomfortable.

CORRELLI BARNETT
Cambridge House,
East Carleton,
Norfolk

Pricing policy and rural school bus services

From Mr B. S. Gray

Sir, I think that the discussion of the effects of averaging costs and pricing policy (October 25) may be very relevant to the problems of bus services in rural areas.

In this area, and I understand in others, serious concern has been caused by recent large increases in bus fares, particularly those affecting secondary school children whose journey is officially less than three miles and hence do not qualify for free transport.

As a result of these increases the seat mile fare is approaching half the total cost per mile of running a car and there is a clear incentive for parents to try and arrange shared transport rather than use the buses.

Since I understand that the running costs of a bus are insensitive to the number of passengers, I must assume that the bus company is hoping to use the school services to sub-

sidise the almost empty buses which one sees at most other times in rural areas. Such a policy would appear doomed to failure with no-one having a bus service within a few years.

No doubt the existing major bus operator will seek to put a smaller operator before given a licence to run an alternative service at a lower price, and if he is allowed to succeed our lanes will become steadily more crowded and more fuel will be wasted.

As over 200 children are involved from this village alone, I would be grateful for any suggestions from other readers as to how a solution can be achieved that is satisfactory to all concerned, but most important of all, to the potential passengers.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. GRAY,
32 East Lane,
Sandwich,
Kent

Subsidies: why are small firms not encouraged?

From Mr W. Burgess

Sir, I read with dismay the news that the Government are to provide the clothing industry with £20m, not because the industry does not need help, but because all of the money for investment projects will go to the few large firms in the industry. This must be so, since in an industry dominated by small firms, only investment projects of "not less than £30,000" will be given grants of up to 20 per cent.

So once more the large firms are to be subsidised, and where will they buy their machinery? No, the majority of machines purchased in the United States, West Germany, Italy and Japan.

Meanwhile, the small firms, who provide the flair and flexibility that is the life blood of the industry, can hope for very little. If they wish to improve productivity, they must purchase low-cost automation equipment from United Kingdom companies, such as ours, they can expect no assistance.

The aim, it appears, must always be to encourage large organizations—why? Because they are more efficient—like British Leyland, Alfred Herbert and Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, I suppose?

W. BURGESS,
Vertex Engineering Limited,
Queens Road,
Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 2FD

Far from it being illogical as Mr Wigham suggested on October 21, the creation of such a council is a fairly proper step; it would be quite wrong for a Secretary of State to do, or indeed in any other major public field, to be advised only by an interdepartmental committee of civil servants. Such a council, if properly set up, would be a most valuable asset to the Government.

However, it is essential also that the views of those who are concerned, on the ground with young people, with their need for advice and guidance on careers matters—Education Authorities, employers, unions, teachers—are brought to bear on the development of national policy.

A. LAWTON,
Chairman,
Kent Education Committee,
Springfield,
Maidstone, Kent.

Time Sharing takeover is recommended

The agreement in principle for Delos International, the United States parent company of Time Sharing Ltd (TSL), London, to be acquired by Automatic Data Processing of Clifton, New Jersey, will mean a significant new association for the British bureau in the context of Europe.

ADP, which is possibly the largest computer bureau in the world, had concentrated on batch processing until the acquisition of Cybertronics enabled ADP to diversify into remote computing, new market areas, and to acquire an international network.

Both Cybertronics and TSL use Digital Equipment Corporation DEC system-10 computers. Cybertronics is already active in Europe, and has a data line linking Ann Arbor, Michigan, with The Hague.

If the acquisition is approved by the Delos shareholders, TSL

Computer news

and Cybertronics will collaborate closely, making advantage of each other's application program packages and other facilities.

TSL will be able to offer customers the choice of local processing in the United Kingdom, or access to data, programs and processing in the United States. This could be a significant market advantage in selling to multinational companies with offices both in Europe and across the Atlantic.

NCR 'Spirit'

A new on-line order-entry system which is designed for smaller wholesalers and distributors has been announced by NCR. Known as Spirit (Sales

processing interactive real-time inventory technique), it is claimed to suit companies processing about 200-250 orders a day, drawn from 10,000 to 20,000 stock items.

The new system is built around the NCR Century 8200 computer.

CDC standard policy

Control Data Corporation is concentrating on developing a standard line of computer systems to meet the growing computational needs of large-scale users, according to Mr John V. Tinsworth, executive vice-president, systems.

Particular emphasis, he said, recently, would be placed on maintaining operating software compatibility between new products and existing lines.

CMG's 78 pc growth

A growth of 78 per cent to a turnover of £4.1m for 1974-75

has been reported by CMG (Computer Management Group).

Operating profit of the group increased to £196,000. Its business in European Community countries outside Britain doubled during the year.

Software services (amounting to £2.5m) accounted for the bulk of the group's business.

BIS acquisition

Business Intelligence Services has acquired Kingsley Smith and Associates, a London software house, from its controlling shareholder, Samuel Mousa and Son, and the minority shareholders.

KSA has specialised in systems development and implementation services for the financial sector, mainly in the City of London. It has also experience in a range of teleprocessing systems.

Kenneth Owen

NEW ISSUE

U.S.\$50,000,000

Midland Bank Limited

Floating Rate Capital Notes 1982



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| Alabi Bank of Kuwait K.S.C. | Algerie Bank Nederland N.V. | A. E. Ames & Co. | The Arab & Morgan Grenfell Finance Company |
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| Credit Lyonnais | Credit du Nord et Union Parisienne | Credito Italiano | Den Norske Creditbank |
| The Development Bank of Singapore | Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation | European Arab Bank S.A. | First Boston (Europe) |
| First International Bankshares | Robert Fleming & Co. | Gelina International | Girocentrale und Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen |
| Greenfields | Handelsbank in Zurich (Overseas) | Hill Samuel & Co. | Iran Overseas Investment Bank |
| Jardine Fleming & Company | Kansai-Osaka-Paniki | Kidder, Peabody International | Kleinwort, Benson |
| Kreditbank S.A. Luxembourg-Loire | Kuhn, Loeb & Co. International | Lazard Brothers & Co. | Lazard Frères et Cie |
| Libyan Arab Foreign Bank | London Multinational Bank (Underwriters) | Manufacturers Hanover | Merck, Finck & Co. |
| Morgan Grenfell & Co. | The National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K. | National Commercial Bank of Jeddah | Nederlandsche Middelstandsbank N.V. |
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| Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale | | Wood Gundy | |

Hill Samuel Group Interim Statement

The profits of Hill Samuel Group Limited for the six months to 30 September 1975 are considerably higher than those of the corresponding period of last year. All principal activities have contributed to this improvement. In June 1975 Hill Samuel was able to announce that it had recovered U.S. \$16,284,789 representing 83 per cent of its Herstatt losses following the conclusion of a settlement relating to Herstatt funds held in New York. In September 1975 the Frankfurt County Court gave judgment in favour of Hill Samuel in its claim against the Deutsche Bundesbank for the whole of its remaining losses. The Bundesbank has indicated that it will appeal against

the Court's decision. The Board has declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31st March 1976 of 1.365 net pence per share (gross equivalent 2.10p), payable on 5 January 1976 to shareholders whose names appear in the Register of Members at 21 November 1975. On the assumption that the final dividend will be the same as last year, the increase in the interim dividend is the maximum permissible by current legislation for the year as a whole. (For the year ended 31 March 1975 an interim dividend of 1.03p (1.56p gross) and a final dividend of 2.5063p (3.86p gross) were paid.)

12th November 1975

Hill Samuel Group Limited

100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ.

PHOTO-ME INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Continued Growth Reflects Expansionary Policy

| | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Turnover | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| U.K. | 2,879 | 2,295 | 2,068 |
| Overseas | 7,713 | 5,493 | 4,916 |
| | 10,592 | 7,788 | 6,984 |
| Profit before taxation | | | |
| U.K. | 314 | 240 | 269 |
| Overseas | 491 | 393 | 191 |
| | 805 | 633 | 460 |
| Taxation & minority interests | | | |
| | 515 | 386 | 382 |
| Net Group Profit | | | |
| | 290 | 247 | 78 |
| Earnings per ordinary share | | | |
| | 13.82p | 11.77p | 3.73p |
| Dividend per ordinary share | | | |
| | 1.808p | 1.645p | 1.575p |

The Chairman, Mr. E. F. Weston, F.C.A., reports:

● A year of further progress with satisfactory results. The continued growth reflects and justifies the expansionary policy in which we have indulged for some years now.

● The recommended dividend which is the maximum permitted, will absorb £24,675 out of the Group Profit of £290,233 whereas two years ago the comparable figures were £23,153 out of £78,400.

● More than half of the products manufactured in the U.K. are exported to most parts of the world.

● The introduction of colour has proved a brilliant success.

● Returns from all sections for the current year to date, show a continued advance in turnover. I believe 1975/76 will be another successful and profitable year.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th December, 1975 at the Palmia Hotel, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey at 6 p.m. and full copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Photo-Me International Limited, Station Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

SECRETARIAL

BUSINESS
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Persons are invited from secretaries who combine skills with a genuine interest in international business and the secretarial requirements of two major European Headquarters Unit of an international group and ourselves combine a professional approach with a friendly working atmosphere, a congenial office situation, a salary at the head of London rates and four weeks' holiday per year.

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Director of Finance of a country-wide retailing co., based in a modern block in the centre of London.
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SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY
TO GROUP FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

£2,700

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Graduate Secretary required for a major publishing house. The candidate should be a mature, experienced woman with a good knowledge of publishing and a strong administrative background. Salary £2,500 per annum.

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International Company for a P.A. Secretary in a major publishing house. The candidate should be a mature, experienced woman with a good knowledge of publishing and a strong administrative background. Salary £2,500 per annum.

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Medical Secretary for a major publishing house. The candidate should be a mature, experienced woman with a good knowledge of publishing and a strong administrative background. Salary £2,500 per annum.

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Estate Agent for a major publishing house. The candidate should be a mature, experienced woman with a good knowledge of publishing and a strong administrative background. Salary £2,500 per annum.

SECRETARY

Secretary for a major publishing house. The candidate should be a mature, experienced woman with a good knowledge of publishing and a strong administrative background. Salary £2,500 per annum.

SECRETARIAL

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OMAN

now more than five years since Sultan Qaboos supplanted his father and started to lead his country out of the Middle Ages into the twentieth century. This Special Report looks at the achievements of that period and the problems to which they have given rise. Particular emphasis is put on geographical diversity of the sultanate, from the jagged peaks of the Musandam peninsula in the north to the monsoon-washed mountains of Dhofar. The ancient forts of Oman are the subject of a picture feature on pages VII and X

Speed gives way to reality in change

by Simon Scott Plummer

Completed the first rate income directly and its transformation. Having brought the services up to scratch, the Government is turning its attention to income generating projects. These include the exploitation of minerals other than oil, primarily copper but also asbestos, phosphates, coal, manganese and chrome; the promotion of agriculture and fishing; and the creation of an industry from oil refining and petrochemicals to cement, asbestos and light manufactures such as soft drinks, glass, shoes, furniture and processed food.

Meanwhile, prospecting for new oil fields continues. Sun Oil has found a promising well in its offshore concession near Masirah, and Elf-Erap and Elf-Sumitomo are drilling respectively off the Musandam peninsula and inland near the border with Saudi Arabia.

Completion of the first phase of development under Sultan Qaboos provides a good opportunity for assessing the achievements of his regime and the problems facing it in this period of consolidation. The achievements are manifold and, given that Oman is not rich like Saudi Arabia or Abu Dhabi, admirable. Sultan Qaboos has brought his country out of isolation on to the international stage. It has joined the United Nations and the Arab League and established diplomatic relations with more than 30 countries.

Within Oman he has united the north and the southern province of Dhofar more closely than before. The two are separated by hundreds of miles of desert and have different cultural, tribal, economic and historical traditions. Many educated Omanis who left home under Sultan Said for lack of jobs have returned to work under his son and can be found in every ministry.

vision of basic services as roads, water, and hospitals has set development on a new path. Such facilities give, do not generate.



Between the ancient cannon of Fort Mirani, one of two forts which dominate the harbour of Muscat, the transistor radio symbolizes the transformations of five years. The fort was built by the Portuguese in 1588.

In 1970 the country had 10 km of asphalted road. Today there are more than 500 km, up the Batin coast to the border with Fujairah, inland to Nizwa, from Salalah through the mountains to Thamarit (Midway).

At the end of Sultan Said's reign Oman had 900 boys and 30 teachers in three schools. In the last academic year the figures were 36,851 male and 12,378 female students, 2,115 teachers and 176 schools.

Medical care was furnished principally by a mission of the Dutch Reformed Church in America, which had two hospitals in Muscat and Salalah. Now there are 13 hospitals, 12 health centres and 39 dispensaries throughout the country.

These are the most striking civilian changes wrought

by Sultan Qaboos. Among the others are the construction of an international airport at Sib and of ports at Muttrah and Raysut in Dhofar, the provision of electricity, drinking water and low-cost housing, and the development of telecommunications, including the opening of radio and television stations.

With regard to national security the Sultan has largely stamped out the threat of subversion from within. During his reign the size of the Armed Forces has risen from about 4,000 to 15,000 men. As well as fighting the PFLO they play an important role in civilian development by building roads, supplying water and running an internal air service.

In Dhofar the guerrillas

have been driven westwards towards the border with South Yemen. Last month the main PFLO supply route was blocked and South Yemen territory attacked for the first time in three years. It remains to be seen whether the recent use of heavier artillery by the enemy will interrupt the steady progress of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

In the north there have been two major incidents involving the PFLO. Nearly three years ago a network of cells was found in Muscat, Muttrah, Sur and Nizwa. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized and 90 people arrested. Of these, 11 were executed, some were jailed and others released.

In October, 1974, a Land Rover was stopped after

dark at a military roadblock near Rustaq. The driver shot a soldier and was himself killed. The five other occupants of the vehicle escaped but four of them were later captured. Three were executed and the fourth sent to prison.

The Land Rover was packed with detonators and silencers. It also contained documents, some in code, others in invisible ink, from which it was clear that the PFLO has no organized apparatus in the north.

By fighting the guerrillas the Sultan has brought greater security to his people. Through civil development he has provided work and social welfare, thereby raising the standard of living. Vigorous pursuit of both policies has justified

the overthrow of his father and established him firmly as ruler of Oman.

Rapid development has brought problems as well as benefits, however. The emphasis so far has been on quantity rather than quality with the result that some services are overburdened and unable to function to the best effect.

The pace of change has been bewildering to older Omanis used to a more measured and quieter way of life. One sees dead animals by the road, killed because their owners had no idea of the speed of modern traffic.

The area around Muscat now has its regular rush-hour traffic jams. The number of vehicles registered rose from 840 in 1971 to 1,515 in 1974. There were 155 people killed

in road accidents last year, compared with 54 in 1973. With more money around and more work to do, competition for land and jobs is hotter. It is too early to say whether the new tempo of life has led to a greater incidence of mental illness but the Government is apparently aware of the dangers to health which modern living can bring.

While I was in the country last month the *Times* of Oman, a weekly English-language newspaper, published articles about hypertension and obesity and about the effect on the heart of cholesterol and smoking. Increased prosperity has been accompanied by a higher rate of crime and wide discrepancies in earnings. Government officials are poorly paid compared to those with similar qualifications in the private sector and this could put a strain on their loyalty and honesty.

The recent brake on government spending has given rise to complaints that the Sultan builds himself palaces, has *touraines* installed in the capital area, orders Rapier missiles and Jaguar aircraft, but cuts back on civil development. The expectations of Omanis have been raised since 1970 and they wish to see them met as quickly as possible. The demand for change will become louder as roads open up the country and allow people to travel to the main poles of development, the areas around Muscat and Salalah, and see how much more has been done there than elsewhere.

According to Sultan Qaboos, the main trouble is lack of local manpower. Oman is roughly the size of England and Wales with a population estimated by some at a million, by others at half that number. Few Omanis have received much education, so the country relies heavily on foreign labour, particularly from India and Pakistan.

Mr Khalifan Nasser, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, thinks there are more than 45,000 foreigners working in the private sector and more than 5,000 in government service. They bring their own habits with them, some of which, such as the consumption of alcohol, are harmful to Oman eyes. The presence of foreigners in the Government leads some people to suspect that the country is run by expatriates who draw fat salaries and appoint their compatriots to the best jobs.

A further ingredient in this racial mix is the return in recent years of Oman pass-holders from Zanzibar, which was part of the Sultan's empire in the nineteenth century. They are better educated than most mainland Omanis and tend to look down on them. Many cannot speak Arabic. It is important for Oman to achieve an harmonious relationship between the various nationalities which the development programme has drawn to its shores. The number of educated Omanis is rising steadily but so is the complexity of the technology which the country imports. It will need foreign help for a long time to come.

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Sultan enjoys wide measure of popular support after first five years in power

by Simon Scott Plummer

Sultan Qaboos, who is 35 today, finds time outside his duties as Head of State and Minister of Defence to pursue a variety of interests. He has enjoyed riding since the age of four and keeps Arab and Pakistani horses. He likes baroque and classical music, particularly Bach and Haydn. He takes a close interest in his various residences and estates. The living quarters of his new palace in Muscat, a large, ornate building which has completely altered the waterfront of the capital, have just been completed. Until now his main residence in the north has been near the airport at Sib, about 25 miles outside Muscat.

To the visitor Sultan Qaboos is charming and courteous, slow and careful in speaking English, not given to exaggeration or dramatic gesture, a person who apparently keeps his feelings to himself. He is criticised by some people for being too diffident in public. They think he should travel around Oman more and make more speeches on television, that he should be more of a politician and less of an aloof ruler.

Whatever his faults, the Sultan has succeeded in overcoming the disadvantages of an extremely repressive upbringing and in gaining a wide measure of popular support as ruler. His father, Sultan Said bin Timur, did not allow him out of the country until he was 18.

He went to England and was tutored for two years in a large house near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. Sandhurst and service with the Camerons in West Germany followed. During his final two years in England he visited magistrates' courts in London, went on a world tour and studied local government in Ipswich.

Having given his son a taste of the outside world, Sultan Said then confined him to Salalah, the capital of the southern province of Dhofar, for the next six years. In July 1970 Qaboos broke free of paternal tyranny at last and, with British connivance, overthrew his father, who went into exile in Britain.

It was in the old palace in Salalah, from which his father dominated the country, that Sultan Qaboos gave an interview to *The Times*. The palace stands on the edge of the Indian Ocean, the dominant feature in the old walled town, and has been largely restored over the past few years. The Sultan's mother lives there but he uses it as an office only, having built a new residence outside Salalah. About half his time in Oman is spent in Dhofar.

I met him on the eve of a big military operation by his armed forces against South Yemen and guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO). He talked to him about his first five years in power.



It is now more than five years since you assumed power in Oman. What have been the Sultanate's main achievements during that period and what are the biggest difficulties facing it today?

When one talks about achievements one must relate them to what the country was before 1970. First of all, I believe we have achieved one of the most difficult aims for a country which before 1970 was still in the Middle Ages. Happily, I can say now we have entered the twentieth century, not completely, but at least we are in the twentieth century. That is one of the achievements which I think makes us all in this country quite happy.

That is the framework. Within that we are quite satisfied that we have gone a long way on education. People always quote figures. I think quoting figures is not the right answer. The right answer is that one can see, for instance, that a lot of our Omani are now receiving higher education in the United Kingdom, France, America and other places. Before, they never did, were educating themselves. For me the important thing is the people whom the Government are now sending abroad for higher education.

I think we have gone a long way in health. The country is divided into 38

wilayah (governorates) and in every one there is either a hospital or a clinic, according to the size of the population. Communications is the key to everything. We have completed nearly 1,000 km of roads in Oman. One can speak by telephone from Dhofar, for instance, to any part of the world. We have not covered every corner of the country. This is very difficult to do in a short time. But the aim is to do so.

We have one small earth satellite and in a few weeks I shall be opening the big one. We hope that through the Olympic Games on our television screens, we have two broadcasting stations.

However, the main achievement since 1970 has been that I can now see the fruits of our efforts during the past five years—people now having higher education coming back to serve their country.

To come in the second part of your question, I think there is only one problem facing this country—manpower. We haven't got enough people to do what we want and therefore to a great extent we rely on expatriates. That is the problem. Do you feel that the Government is strong enough to withstand subversion from within the country?

Yes, I do. What stage has the struggle against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman reached?

In general terms I think we have really "hammered" them. They are no longer a

threat to the security of the country. They are no longer a force which can achieve any of the aims which they were aiming at. All that remains of them is just a handful of people who for one reason or another don't want to give themselves up, mainly because they have committed crimes against the people in the mountains. They think that, if they give themselves up, the people might start saying, "You, so and so, have killed my brother. You, so and so, have killed my father" and take revenge. We are doing our utmost to prevent this and I don't think this will happen with the exception of the isolated incident.

The Government forgives everybody who gives himself up. Ninety per cent of those people are already on our side.

However, when we talk about a communist movement in the area (Arabia) we're talking about something completely different. This leads me to say again that those people who remain hostile, apart from fear of revenge, if it wasn't for South Yemen Government support to them near the border, they wouldn't be there any longer. For how long will you need outside military help in this struggle?

As long as the South Yemen Government is hostile to Oman, the border area will never be 100 per cent peaceful. We know that South Yemen also relies on other people for training, planning, supplies of arms. The Soviet Union gives a

lot of assistance. There are Cubans and East Germans. Therefore, as long as they are hostile to us, we shall need the help of our friends. Does the presence of British, Iranian and Jordanian troops in Dhofar harm your relations with the Arab world?

Nor at all, with exceptions, of course. In the Arab world the only voice which has been raised against Oman recently is that of the Libyans. For the rest of the Arabs I think they understand our problem. They know that they themselves haven't done much to solve it, and they can't stop other people from helping to solve it. In all parts of the world countries have friends and sometimes call on them for help.

When I was in Oman in 1973 I felt the Government believed that the United Arab Emirates, which were rich, had not realized what was at stake in Oman. Is this still the case or has the importance of Oman been realized in the Persian Gulf and acted upon?

Not to the extent I would like to see. They do realize the seriousness of the situation in the area better than before. But not to the extent that they are doing their bit to prevent such things happening elsewhere. We are openly fighting the communists, fighting their ideas and fighting them physically, in this country. We can say we have really defeated them in that there is no hope for them achieving their aims, except for being a nuisance from time to time. In the rest of the Gulf they are not openly against the Govern-

ment but what I fear is that their defeat here might lead them to start operating somewhere else, if one is not alert.

With the rapprochement between Iran and Iraq is there a likelihood that your country and Iraq will establish diplomatic relations?

Yes, indeed. I think, if all goes well, we shall do so very soon. We like to establish good relations with anyone who understands our problems and is prepared to shake hands with one hand and stab us in the back with the other. If there are Iraq Baathists who think differently from us, that doesn't stop us having good relations, but we must mean it, if we say we want to have good relations and be friends.

How are Oman's relations with the international oil companies? Will the Government take more than a 60 per cent stake in Petroleum Development (Oman)?

Our relations with oil companies working in the Sultanate are very good indeed. I don't think we want at present to have more shares than we do. Perhaps not for some time to come. There is always prestige for someone to say the company is 100 per cent national, but have they got the people to run it? We must not fool ourselves.

Has the rapid rise in the price of oil brought inflationary troubles to the country?

Yes, inflation is beyond belief. The Government has always tried to take measures to decrease it. The port (Muscat) is functioning well and that has eased many problems, such as importing through other ports, which makes things a little bit cheaper. The Government has also decided to stock basic commodities so that when people try to sell at a higher price, the Government opens its store and sells stuff at a more reasonable price.

'In Islam one must give alms'

Do you support Iran's suggestion that some of the recent rise in the price of oil should be set aside as a fund for developing countries?

This is a very good and a very noble idea. At various meetings with different heads of state I have suggested something rather similar. In Islam one must give alms, a certain percentage every year of one's income. I did suggest that all oil-producing countries with a vast amount of money coming in and the income gaining interest in the banks should take out alms from that amount and give them to countries which need it.

Do you wish to see special drawing rights as the unit of account in calculating oil prices instead of the dollar?

No. I prefer the dollar or the pound, whichever is strong. I think special drawing rights would create a lot of problems.

Are you finding, with expansion within the country and inflation from outside, that you have budgetary difficulties?

Up till this year I think we spent every year every penny we have got but kept our reserves intact. We have to do that because we cannot afford to walk like other people. We have to run to get at least in the tail of the caravan, which is going very fast.

At the beginning of this year I had a meeting with my ministers and they said that from now on we can afford to walk, and therefore we shall spend money on what is absolutely necessary. Of course, we have to keep up recurrent expenditure on hospitals, the army and so on, but we have so many new projects already in the pipeline that we have stopped having new projects until we have really completed

what is already in the pipeline. That will take three years at least. After that we shall think again, see if there are more important projects and embark on them. Therefore, I think we are quite well off.

Do you think there is a political danger that people accustomed to an extraordinary rate of expansion might see this slowing down and ask what is happening?

No, I don't think there is any danger. First of all, everybody is employed who wants to work to the extent that we have imported a lot of labour from outside. There will always be enough work for our people. The government programmes already completed will keep 101 employing people for ever. The slowing down is not holding people back. We have to think and see what we'll do next and give ourselves a breathing space.

Could you say something about your experience of Britain?

I was 18 years old when I went to Britain. As it was the first country outside my own that I had been to, I was much impressed. I enjoyed my six years there tremendously. The people are very precise, polite. Everybody respects every-

body else. While people accuse Britain of being slow in taking decisions, I think it is an excellent thing. One must think properly before one takes a decision. I am glad to have experienced this.

Was your experience of local government there of value?

Tremendously, because it gave me all the necessary outlook on things and ideas on how local or small governments run.

How are present relations between our two countries?

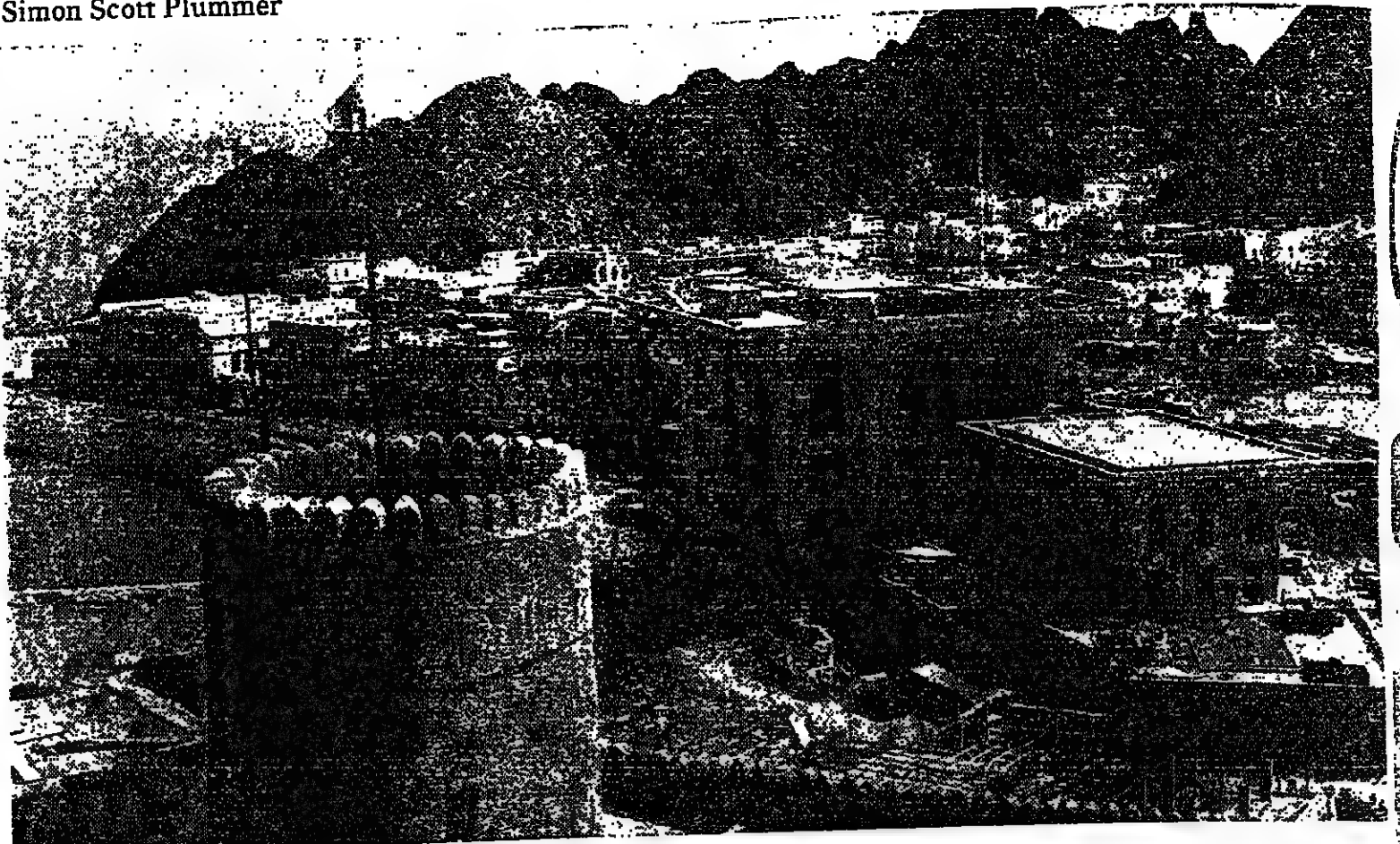
They couldn't be better. We couldn't be closer to each other.

Do you feel there is a danger that, with the reduction in British expenditure overseas, British military help to your country could be rapidly withdrawn?

Here we are accustomed to seeing British faces in our army, in training and so on. Personally, I would like to continue to see British faces here until we can replace them with Omani. Our friends in London have indicated to me that they will honour their commitments.

It's always good to give people their freedom but it's also good to help your long-standing friends. There's a difference between coloniz-

Sultan Qaboos of Oman who is 35 today. Right: general view of Muscat showing the Sultan's new palace in the foreground.



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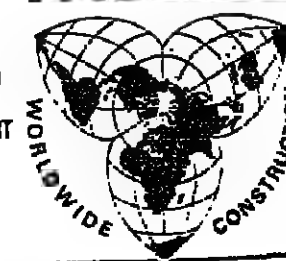
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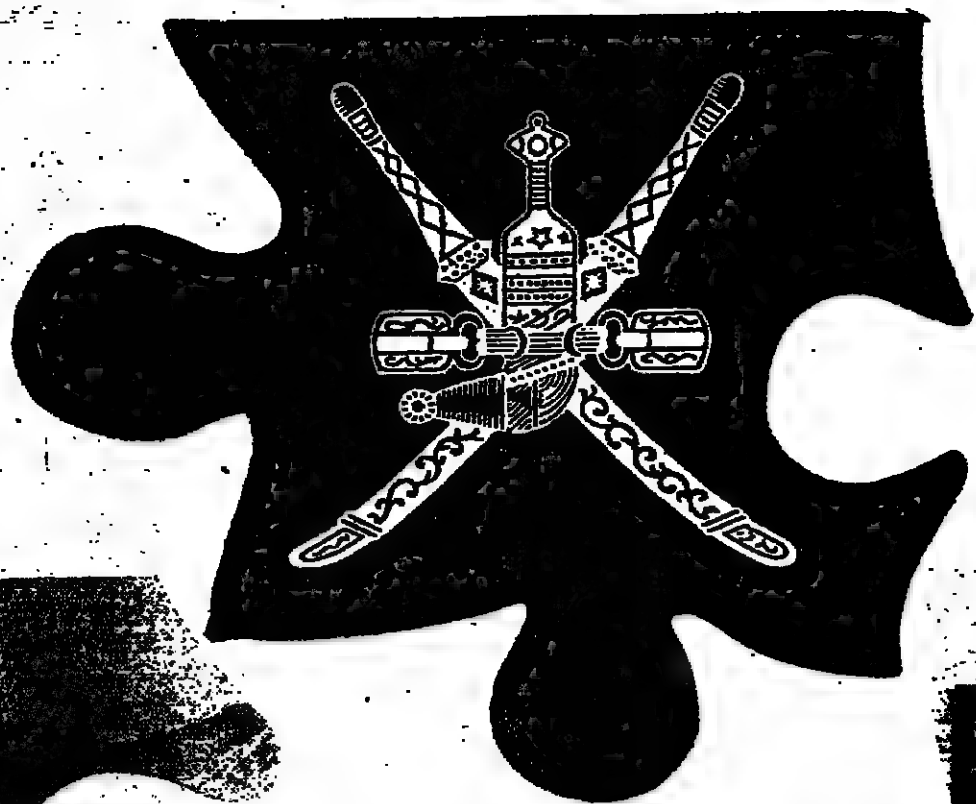


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Copper the next potential money-spinner

by Ann Fyfe

About a year ago rumours were gaining ground of a cash crisis. Several contractors, it was thought, were having trouble getting paid for government work. A moratorium was said to have been imposed on major new projects. In retrospect it seems there was indeed a faltering, as is bound to happen in a country developing as rapidly as Oman. The present general view among the merchant sector seems to be, however, that the money is starting to flow again; creditability has been more or less restored all round.

Even allowing for a development programme as fast and as famous as Oman's has been since the old regime was ousted in 1970, the Government would have to try very hard before it could create for itself a genuinely long-term cash flow problem. Oil revenue this year will bring in \$80m (£55m) or £15m a day for a population which cannot be much in excess of a million.

Trade has been established in Oman at least since the Babylonian Empire. The agricultural base is there, albeit neglected but receiving attention; preparatory work is under way for the exploitation of copper and other mineral deposits; light consumer and construction-related industries are springing up; and purchasing power expands and spreads with education and jobs.

Last but not least, the pre-1970 regime's aversion to mass education had the effect of forcing a whole generation to find its abroad—in the Indian subcontinent, Europe and Egypt. Now in commercial or government posts back in Oman, these younger people generally have a wider experience than their elders' numbers in some of Oman's neighbours.

It was oil that made the transformation of the Sultanate financially possible in the first place, however, and oil which accounts for 95 per cent of government revenue. Production, which began in 1967, is now reaching 380,000 barrels a day; this level is primarily explained by the introduction of the Ghuba fields (Qarn Alam, Ghuba North and Ghuba South) earlier this year.

The original four fields in the Fahud region (Fahud, al-Huwaisah, Yibal and Nakhla) are declining and production is maintained by the secondary recovery methods of gas and water injection. Crude from both the Fahud and Ghuba regions has moved a considerable pipeline to the export terminal established by Petroleum Development (Oman) PD(O) at Mina al-Fahud on the coast north of Muscat. In 1976, however, the new fields in the Sahi Rawi area are expected to be on stream and production will rise again, possibly to more than 400,000 barrels a day.

Petroleum Development (Oman) has a 60 per cent government stake along with Opec lines, although Oman is not an Opec member, the remaining 40 per cent belonging to Shell, with 34 per cent, Compagnie Française des Pétroles with 4 per cent and Paraflex with 2 per cent. Further exploration continues: Sun Oil, a consortium of North American and German companies, is drilling off the south coast of the island of Masirah, and is optimistic; France's Elf-ERAP is exploring off the Musandam peninsula, where a consortium headed by Winterhall has long held a concession, and Elf-ERAP again, in association with Sumitomo of Japan, has a concession around Butabul, south of the PD(O) fields at Fahud. PD(O) has a seismic crew surveying around Amal in Dhofar.

Total government revenue in the 1975 budget is estimated at 398.1m rials (£557m), of which oil accounts for 387.1m rials. Expenditure, totalling 521.4m rials (£730m), is

more or less equally divided between civil development and the military, the former taking 243.4m rials—69m rials in recurrent expenditure and 174.4m rials of investment in development projects (which compares with 29.5m rials in 1973 and 127.9m rials in 1974). Defence takes very slightly less at 238m rials—98.3m rials in recurrent expenditure and 139.7m rials in capital outlay and reserve. It should not be taken for granted, incidentally, that defence spending will wither away when the Dhofar troubles are over; a high level of military spending is the norm in this part of the world.

Debt servicing and repayments account for a further 15m rials and the Government's share in PD(O) costs comes to 25m rials. According to the Finance Department, the resulting deficit of 123.6m rials is well covered by aid, mainly from the richer oil states in the peninsula such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, and by government loans.

Add from the neighbouring Arab countries has been notable for its discretion. Little publicity has attended it. None the less, since the time of the last year, the Oman-Dhofar-Yemen situation has been one of the thorniest problems in the Arab world and the single greatest danger to stability in the Gulf. Thus loans and grants from the oil States, which are in no danger of drying up.

The Government has been to the international market for loans four times since the end of 1973: \$35m arranged by Morgan Grenfell; \$25m arranged by Hambros; \$14m managed by the Arab and Morgan Grenfell Finance Company and a \$50m loan managed by Citibank de Banque Arabes, at Franciscus only last month. A Saudi loan of \$100m was reported last May and Oman is both a recipient from, and a debtor to, the World Bank.

It is widely known that investment in civilian projects in 1976 will be somewhat less than this year's 17.4m rials; this is what makes it unnecessary to describe in detail the massive gas utilization projects awarded to Gaz Ocean of France, for a 140m rials fertilizer complex, and to Tesoro Petroleum of the United States, for a 35m rials liquefaction plant; one cannot say how firm these contracts are.

Mineral exploitation is the most exciting (and feasible) potential money-spinner on the Oman horizon. Copper was mined in ancient times, as the exported to the Near East civilizations. The Ministry of Agriculture and Minerals is working towards a production figure of 3,000 tons of copper-rich ore a day. Detailed prospecting was carried out by the Marshall Oman Exploration of the United States, and Prospection of Canada, which now have between them 49 per cent of the 51 per cent government-owned company, Oman Mineral and Development, which is to exploit the copper.

The copper finds lie between Buraimi, on the border with the United Arab Emirates at the foot of the mineral-rich Hajar Mountains, and Sohar, the ancient port on the northern coast of Oman. A road already links the two towns and a port is planned at Sohar specifically for copper exports. Smelting and refining possibilities are under consideration, but would undoubtedly be financially and technologically taxing.

Asbestos has been located and the quality of the deposits is now being assessed by Eternit, a Swiss-Lebanese company which has a contract eventually to extract it. Phosphates, manganese and chrome are also known to exist, but in what quantities remains to be seen. Lighter industries so far are concentrated in the food

and construction areas: a soft drinks plant, cold stores and a 700,000 tons-a-year flour mill, not yet in production. Food processing, particularly fish, and agricultural productivity in general are receiving great attention.

So far as construction is concerned, both local and foreign contractors have made a fortune out of the four-year spate of road, hospital, school, residential and general public service building. Imported construction materials have soared in cost over the period and a standard three-bedroom villa in Muscat now costs more than twice as much as comparable accommodation in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates; nor are there any signs of an easing of demand. Meanwhile, it is unclear what became of the 200,000 tons-a-year cement plant which was to have been built by Portland Cement (ACPM) and Cementia of Switzerland.

Drawing conclusions from published trade figures for Oman is slightly complicated in that Oman's import figures exclude, while other countries' export figures include, military hardware. Total imports in 1974, however, (Oman figures, probably excluding most military items), reached 135.6m rials and British, accounting for 17.6 per cent of the total, was far and away the largest supplier (discounting airport trade from the United Arab Emirates), followed by Japan, Holland, the United States and West Germany.

The breakdown follows the normal pattern in this part of the world; construction and mining equipment has been the largest category, followed by transport equipment. Oman has recently been a big spender on telecommunications as well. Cable and Wireless has a radio station at Warrayah which routes calls via Bahrain, but an Italian consortium is working on a 1.5m rials earth satellite station with 60 circuits in the first phase, expected to open in 1976. A countrywide telephone system is being installed by L. M. Ericsson.

The rest of the basic public services are almost completed. Six airports, which were built by the Egyptian contractors Joannou and Paraskavidis, was opened in 1974. The eight-berth deepwater port Mina Qaboos, designed by Halcrow and John A. Haris and the largest project, is fully operational. Raysut, on the coast near Salalah, is being developed as a port to serve Dhofar, but development in Dhofar is a separate subject, allied to the military situation.

A comprehensive road network, some of it complete, is under construction. Sib-Nawra, Sohar-Buraimi, Buraimi-Ibri, Ibr-Nawra, Nizwa-Thamari (in Dhofar) are the principal routes. The value of contracts out for these and other roads adds up to nearly 200m rials over the next few years.

The vast residential town of Medina Qaboos, which includes 1,000 houses, a school, clinic and shops, is taking shape but none of the new hotels, desperately needed, is yet open—except for the extension to the Al Falaj Hotel. A Gulf Hotel and the Ruwi Hotel are near completion, and work has started on an Intercontinental. When all these rooms become available, the security apparatus will have lost its best excuse for being so extremely mean with visas, but one doubts if visas will suddenly become available any more easily.

A good deal of what had to be spent on public services has now been spent, even though it is only five years since it began. Education, medical, welfare and public service projects all continue. The cash-flow restriction is unlikely to get any worse in the long term, especially when other sources of national revenue, from minerals and light industries, start to materialize, but the manpower restraint remains.



Top: the port of Mina Qaboos, Muscat, completed last year. Above: the day catch at the Murrah fish port.

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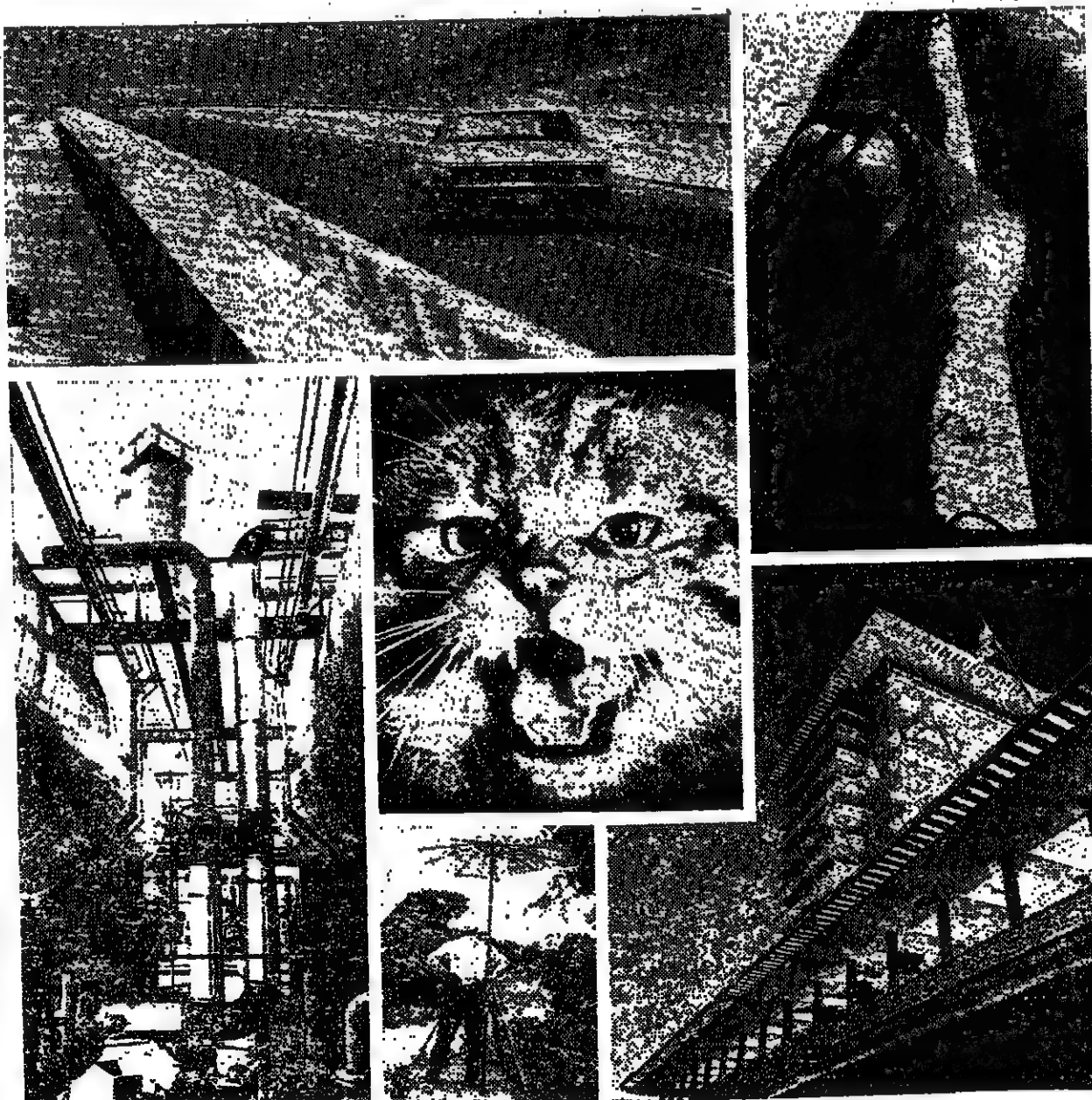
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World diplomatic links developed

by Simon Scott Plummer

previous ruler (SAF) contain about 400 British officers led by Major-General Kenneth Perkins and Brigadier John Akhurst, both on secondment. Several of the government ministries have British advisers, whose discreet influence is similar to that of French consellers in former French colonies.

The core of Oman's foreign policy is the fact that the country is almost at war with its western neighbour, South Yemen, whose Marxist regime supports the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO). This is the determining factor in relations with other states. Thus Iran and, to a lesser extent, Jordan - figure prominently in Oman views because of their commitment of troops to Dhofar.

Relations with the Arab states of the Gulf are chequered. Oman believes that they appreciate the significance of the struggle against the PFLO better than before but it would still like more help from them.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Qais Zawawi, the Foreign Minister, said that his country had received about \$150m in aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Saudi Arabia over the past 12 months. Abu Dhabi has sent a defence squadron to Sohar to release the Oman gendarmerie for service in Dhofar and financing the road between Sohar and Buraimi. The Government is no doubt hoping that grants from these countries will continue to offset the budgetary deficit.

The wealth of the UAE is a magnet to Omanis. Abu Dhabi recruits men for its defence force in northern Oman and Ras al Khaymah draws people from the Musandam peninsula who can find no work at home.

Oman is suspicious of its neighbours' intentions towards South Yemen. The latter has an office in Kuwait and would like to establish diplomatic relations with the UAE. The Omanis fear that aid from the oil-rich countries in the Gulf to South Yemen could be used against the SAF in Dhofar. They are also worried that communist subversion, having been stamped out in Oman, could reemerge in one of the Gulf states.

On their side Oman's Arab neighbours are wary of the growing Iranian military presence in Dhofar. Mr Zawawi said that their uneasiness was a natural human reaction but he believed that the Shah's armed forces were a factor for stability and peace in the Gulf.

The most significant recent change in the area has been the improvement in relations between Muscat and the Baathist regime in Iraq, which in the past has afforded training facilities for the PFLO. Mr Zawawi expects the two countries to exchange ambassadors early next year. He said that Iraq had probably realized that the PFLO and the South Yemen regime were lost causes.

Because of communist support for the guerrillas Oman has no diplomatic relations with the communist world outside Yugoslavia and Romania. It does not want any increase in either the Soviet or the American military presence in the Gulf, preferring the security of that waterway to be guaranteed by the littoral states. The same principle holds for the Indian Ocean, though the size of the area to be patrolled presents great difficulties.

While the Sultan was in the United States earlier this year the question of landing rights for American aircraft on Masirah was broached. Coming at a time when United States officials were talking of occupying Middle East oil fields by force, the request caused a furor.

Oman and Britain, which has a lease on the island, have since let the matter drop. However, Mr Zawawi said that the sultanate would not object to American aircraft having the right to refuel on Masirah.

Oman welcomes the Sinal pact between Egypt and Israel but points out that its long-term success depends on similar agreements being concluded with Syria and Jordan and on recognition by Israel of Palestinian rights. This would entail withdrawal to the borders before the 1967 war.

The Government is concerned at the communal strife in Lebanon as the division of that country facilitates attacks on it by the Israelis.

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Hospital in Ruwi: an operation for plastic surgery to the nose. Advanced surgery as well as plastic surgery is carried out in this operating theatre.

New health service is overburdened

The health service exemplifies the health centres and dispensaries built since 1970 provide good propaganda for Sultan Qaboos's regime but they do not get to the heart of the problem, which is how to prevent illness. Health education has been neglected until recently with the result that malaria, trachoma, cholera, typhoid, gastroenteritis, tuberculosis, anaemia and pneumonia are still common.

If people are taught to wash frequently there is less likelihood of cholera, typhoid and skin disease, if food is cleaned properly the incidence of gastroenteritis falls. Of the 2,300 children better they are less prone to anaemia, if she keeps flies off their eyes there is less chance of trachoma and conjunctivitis. It is estimated that an effective health campaign on these lines could cut hospital attendance by 80 to 90 per cent.

Realizing that the medical services do not have time to educate their patients the Ministry of Health is building up the public health side of its operation. An Egyptian director of public health was appointed just over a year ago and he now has 155 sanitary inspectors, school health visitors, midwives, nurses and laboratory technicians working under him. Dr Mubarek Al-Khadduri, the Minister of Health, has integrated the medical and public health sections of the ministry to avoid duplication of effort and is committed to eradicating endemic diseases in Oman.

The change of policy by the ministry is impeded by a shortage of money and staff and its initial results have already come under fire.

The public health department has been criticized for concentrating on midwifery and failing to educate mothers in nutrition and hygiene. To a certain extent the gap is filled by the Save the Children Fund, the only charitable organisation working in Oman, but it has only nine clinics.

The amalgamation of curative and preventive services in health centres at Nizwa and Sumail has been hampered by lack of cooperation between the medical side, which is staffed by Indians and Pakistanis, and the public health people, who are mainly Egyptians.

A campaign to counteract dental decay, caused by the growing popularity of tinned food, through the provision of toothpaste and toothbrushes has not been followed up.

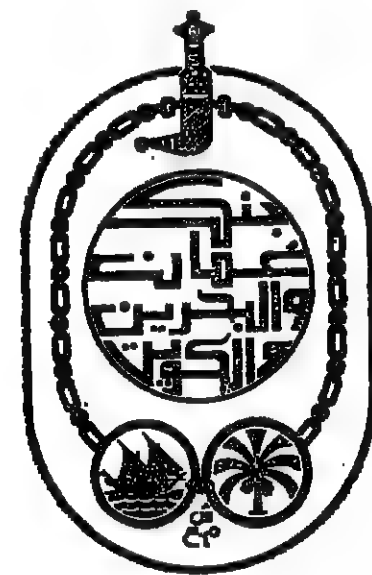
These shortcomings are serious in a country whose medical services are under such pressure and whose population is still keen to learn about health education. The main task for Dr Al-Khadduri is to wield his expatriate staff from both medical services and public health into an effective whole. As the level of education in Oman is so low, the ministry will have to rely on foreign assistance for some time to come.

Dr Al-Khadduri's predecessor, Dr Asim Jamali, the architect of Oman's health service, lost his post last year and was appointed Minister without Portfolio. His Under-Secretary, Mr Said Shaky, has also been dismissed but the job has not yet been refilled.

The period since the change of leadership has not been a happy one for the ministry. Criticism is heard of the Pakistan director of medical services for removing an able American surgeon from one of the former mission hospitals and giving jobs to Pakistanis who do not speak Arabic. Charges of favouring Egyptians are also made against the Egyptian director of public health.

The health service is going through a difficult period politically at a time when it is trying to remedy the mistakes of the past five years. Dr Al-Khadduri has found his feet as minister but it would seem that he needs a strong Omani under-secretary as soon as possible to back him up.

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Exiles help education to come in out of the cold

by Norma Ashworth

Lack of schools was one of the strongest reasons for the need to unseat Sultan Said bin Taimur. An intelligent population, eager to progress, was restrained so inflexibly that their discontent had smouldered for many years, even before the discovery of oil promised an end to poverty. The country was in a twilight of backwardness, deplored by the far-sighted whose concern was for the betterment of their children.

When the grand development plan was disclosed as a result of the certainty of oil resources, there was still only an ill-defined promise to provide schools. The Sultan feared the effect widespread education would have, not so much for the erosion of his own scholastic supremacy as the threat to the stability of Islam. He disliked the modernity of some Arab neighbours, and believed western influences to be destructive of religion. Shrewdly, he also foresaw that a people given wider vision would become impatient with his dilatory methods of spreading the benefits of prosperity.

In fact, the community as a whole—and the coastal areas of trade and commerce in particular—had been unwilling for a long time to accept the life that the ruler decreed for them and an impoverished treasury could do little to alleviate. The setting up of schools was requested repeatedly and always refused. Only one official school for general education, the Sayyidiya (founded in Muscat in 1940), had been in existence until 1959, when a second Sayyidiya was established in Muttrah.

By July 1970, these and a school in Salalah remained the only schools for the rudimentary education of Omani boys. Schemes by rich merchants to set up and run small private schools, bringing in Palestinian teachers, foundered as soon as the Palace became aware of them. One school which merchants—alert to the affairs of other countries through Oman's sea trading history—started in Sur showed brief promise but was closed by the Sultan.

The largest sector of the foreign community, brought in for the exploitation of oil after 1965, was granted permission to have a school for the children of employees. Another which began with classes in the compound of the British Embassy in Muscat was allowed to function with closely confined rules of entrance, excluding all Omanis.

There was nowhere for Omani parents with ambi-



Oman is hurrying to make up lost ground in education. An old man dictating letter to his son who has been taught to read and write under the new regime. Below: a Koranic school in Rustaq.

tions for their children to achieve even an elementary stage of literacy. It says much for their determination that so many hundreds of great personal sacrifices found the means to leave the country. Made openly, this act of defiance meant that they became exiles. Where the children alone were smuggled out of the country, there was serious menace and the perpetual fear of retribution.

For some who had their start at the Sayyidiya schools, Kuwait provided the next step. Under the state system there, free places were offered to children from the whole Gulf area. Abu Dhabi was later to make the same offer, with small emoluments, to Omani children living near the border. Families also went to Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan and Jordan, but the major exodus was to places traditionally linked to Oman—Zanzibar, Kenya and Sudan, with their British educational origins.

English-speaking recalls Raj

It is no surprise, therefore, that among Arab countries today Oman has possibly the highest proportion of English-speaking inhabitants. Their introduction to English goes back to the days of extensive trade and political entanglements with Britain and the British Raj.

The Zanzibar connexion was the most binding for it provided excellent schooling based upon a general European curriculum. For more than 60 years, from the time that Zanzibar was made a British Protectorate in 1890 until the revolution of 1963, Omanis living there enjoyed a standard of education taking in university and post-graduate subjects. The revolution forced them out of the country and many sought to return to the homeland.

The Sultan's unwelcoming attitude was a setback: summary refusal for most, a grudging permission and fragile tolerance for others. Either way, the social progress that could have helped Oman through Zanzibar's loss of an intelligentsia was impeded. The refugees, capable of using skills learnt in a more modern society, were not encouraged. Their defection from Arabia, whether through ancestral migration in the colonising periods or more recently, ranked.

In the 15 years or so before the accession of Sultan Qaboos, when military and political disturbances gave Oman spasmodic attention from the world's press, educational interest was responsible for an extraordinary pattern of migration. A pre-1970 graph, plotting the movements of Omani children of school and university age, would show criss-crossing lines covering a wide area,

far beyond the Middle East and East Africa.

Vestiges of nineteenth-century spheres of influence show up in the large representation of countries such as Britain and France and, more modestly, the United States. Russia and Communist countries also appear more recently in the pattern while Scandinavia, Germany and The Netherlands have a few, tenuous lines.

Since July 1970 there has been a decline in the number of children of elementary school age going abroad and a more gradual decline in the numbers going abroad for secondary education. Oman's fifth year of an educational programme still has need of foreign teachers but is well towards its goal of a school place for every child in the country.

The flow of students to overseas universities and technical colleges is however, increasing in an effort to meet the needs of a country moving quickly towards self-responsibility. The reality of "an Oman governed by Omanis for Omanis" is beginning to appear.

In the second half of 1970, when the door opened to the exiles, every young Omani could see where the future was leading. Suddenly there was a government, instead of an idealistic framework, and the seats of power had to be filled. The graduates came back with degrees from Oxford, Cambridge and Kiev, and no political bias was evidenced in the awarding of posts. Oman needed loyal Omanis wherever they had been trained, and they flooded in from niches of academic comfort and from waiting perches on the edges of Oman's own borders.

The acceleration has not let up. Young Omanis have every opportunity to use their talents to the full from the moment they have adequate qualifications. The familiar to the West, is unlikely to need Arabic translation for Oman for many years to come.

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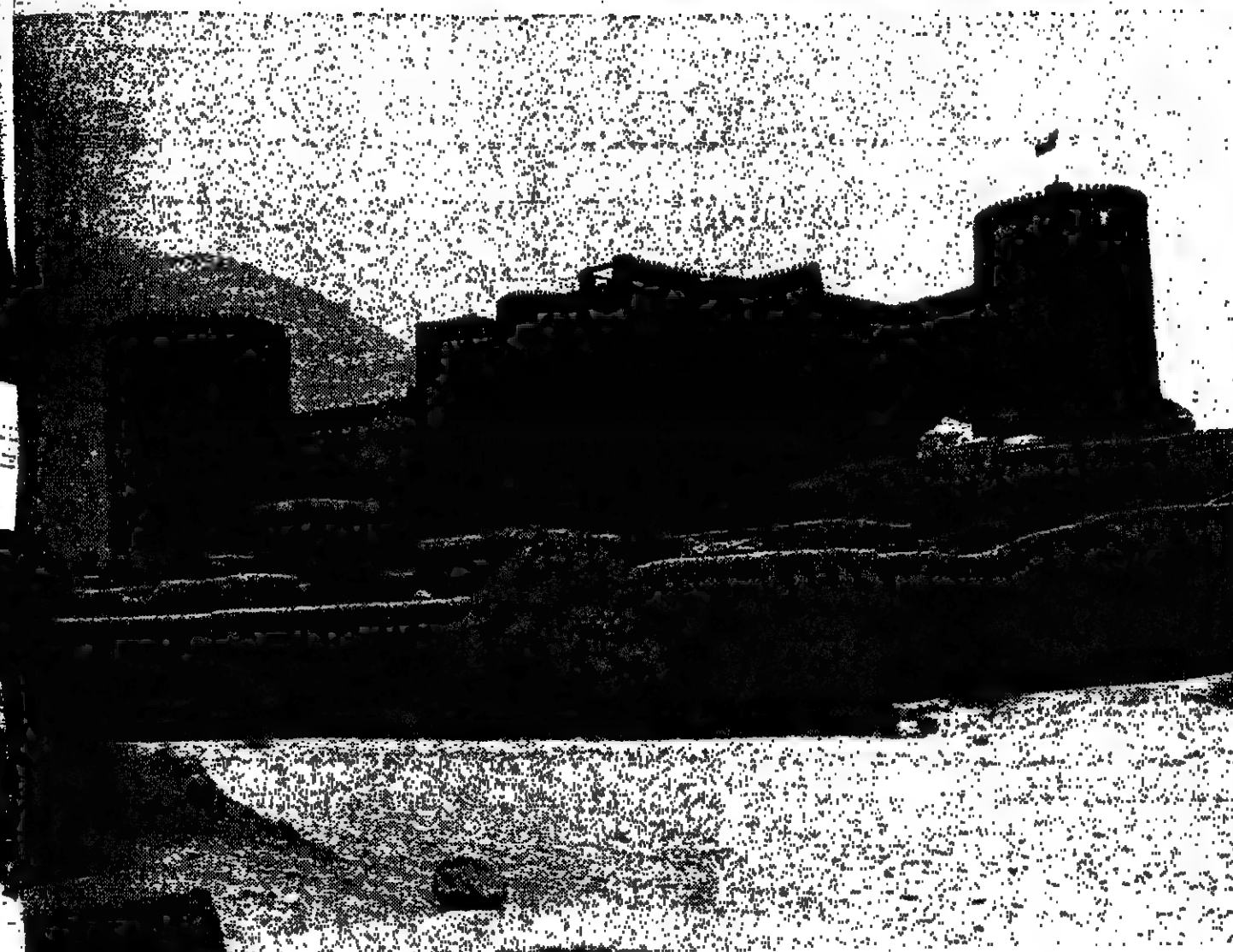
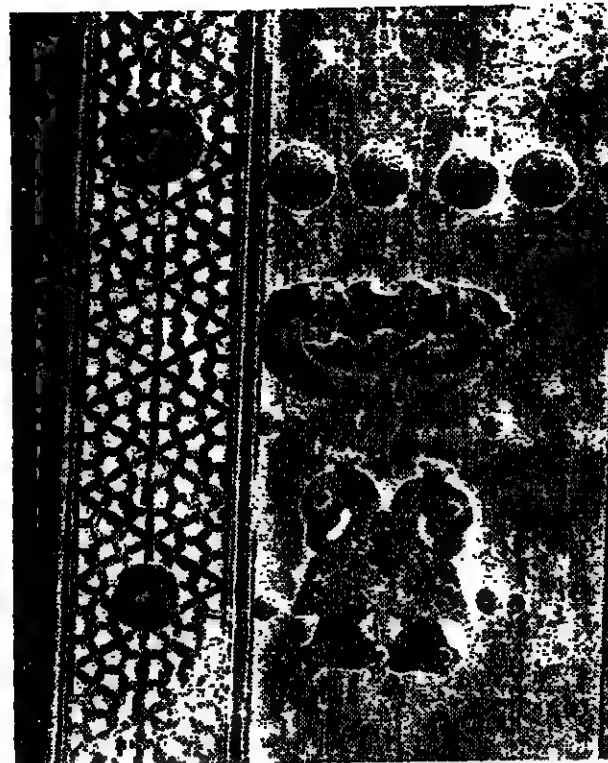
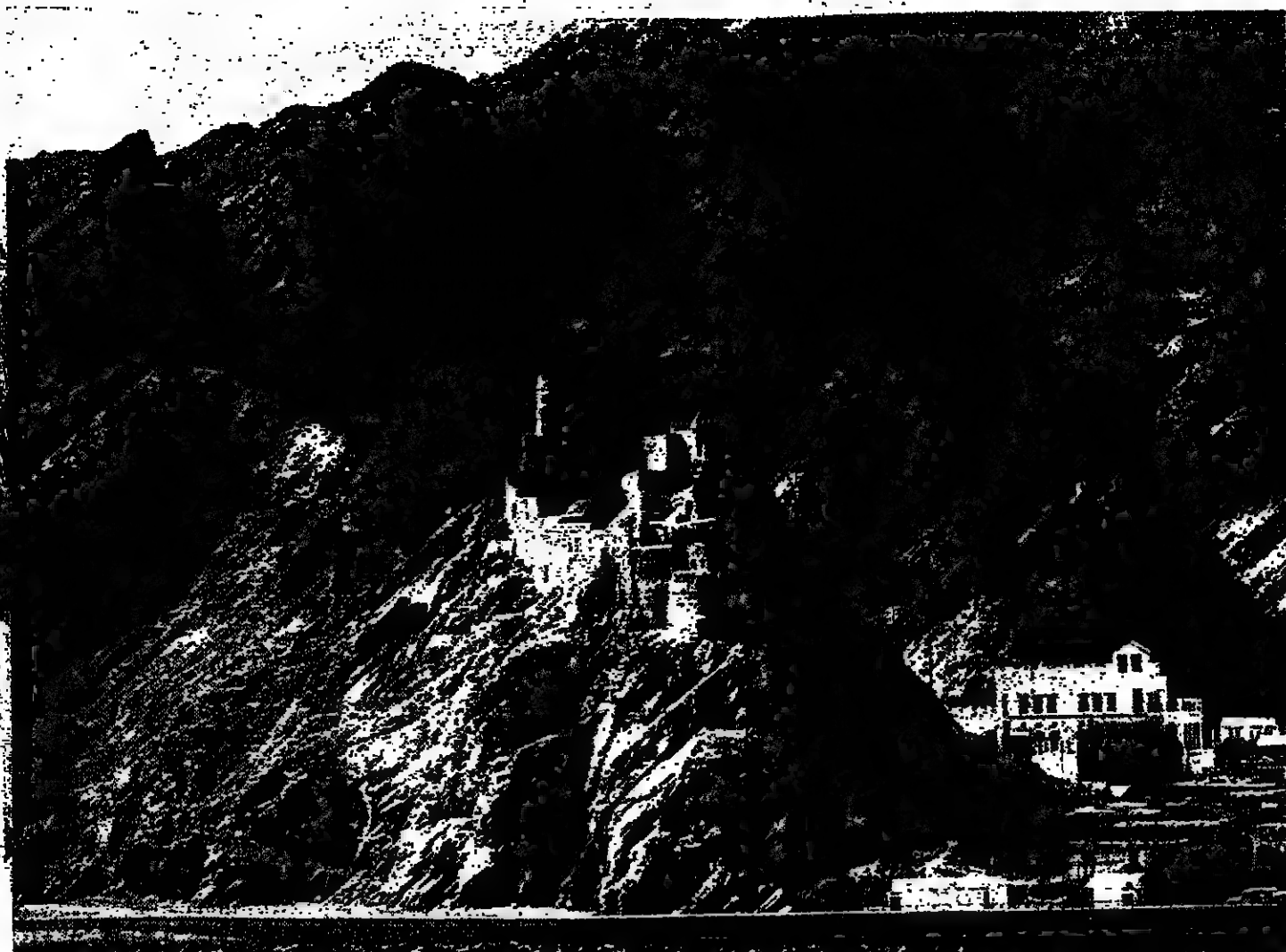
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IMAGES OF DECAYING SPLENDOUR



of northern Oman and the jagged, bare mountains against which they stand are among the most enduring images of the Sultanate. Here page 10 Roger Wood captures their ancient and decaying splendour. Muttrah (top left) is perched dramatically on a mountain side and an important commercial centre. Rustaq (above left), lying on the seaward side of the mountain range which bisects the north, was built in the early nineteenth century. Sohar (top right) guarded the largest town on the Batina coast: its tower was built much later than the walls, in the early nineteenth century. Jabrin (centre and above-right) is famous for its interior decoration, which is in bad repair. Restoration expected to begin in January.



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 - Also just completed, the Central Medical Stores at Muscat.
 - The new Police Headquarters, being built in traditional style but with modern materials and techniques to give the aspect of a desert fort.
 - Currently under construction, the Military Barracks at Izki, due for completion in 1976.
 - The main Buraimi to Ibbi highway, 130 kilometres long and due to open to traffic in 1976.
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- في عام ١٩٧١ هـ في أول عام لتسليم صاحب الجلالة السلطان قابوس بن سعيد الحكم وثمان على عهد لتسليم وبناء مكاتب الحكومة الجديدة - وسلمنا المشروع جاهزاً في عام ١٩٧٣ - ولقد بلغ نجاح المشروع مدى وشجع على توقيع ٦ اتفاقيات أخرى في السنين القادمة.
- لقد تم بناء وتسلم فندق الخليج منذ وقت قريب وهو فندق أنيق ومتف ذو ٥ كواكب، وقد شيد حسب الطراز الحديث ولكن بأسلوب عربي بارز.
- كما تم بناء والمستودعات الطبية المركزية في مسقط.
- ولقد اكتمل مركز الشرطة الرئيسي الجديد بأسلوب تقليدي ولكن باستعمالنا المواد والطرق الحديثة لكي نغني عليه شكل قلعة صحراوية.
- ولأنه نتم بناء المكاتب العسكرية في اسقي، وستنتهي من بنائها في سنة ١٩٧٦.
- كما نتم بناء الطريق العام من البريمي إلى عبرى الذي يبلغ طوله ١٣٥ كم - والذي سيفتح لخدمة السيارات في سنة ١٩٧٦.
- كما شغلنا منذ وقت قصير بمبنى مجمع مخازن للشرطة وهي تعد خطوة أخرى في تحديث شرطة عمان العنكية.
- يبعدنا ان نتابع اعمالنا ومساعدة سلطنة عمان على التطوير والتقدم.

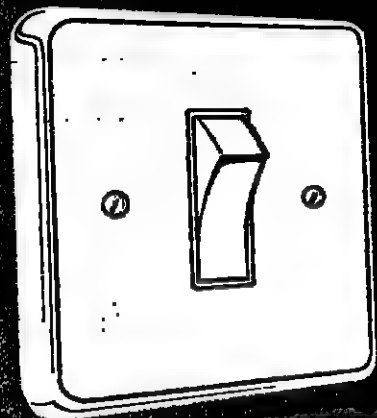
والآن ه نتم بناء المكاتب العسكرية في اسقي، وستنتهي من بنائها في سنة ١٩٧٦.

كما نتم بناء الطريق العام من البريمي إلى عبرى الذي يبلغ طوله ١٣٥ كم - والذي سيفتح لخدمة السيارات في سنة ١٩٧٦.

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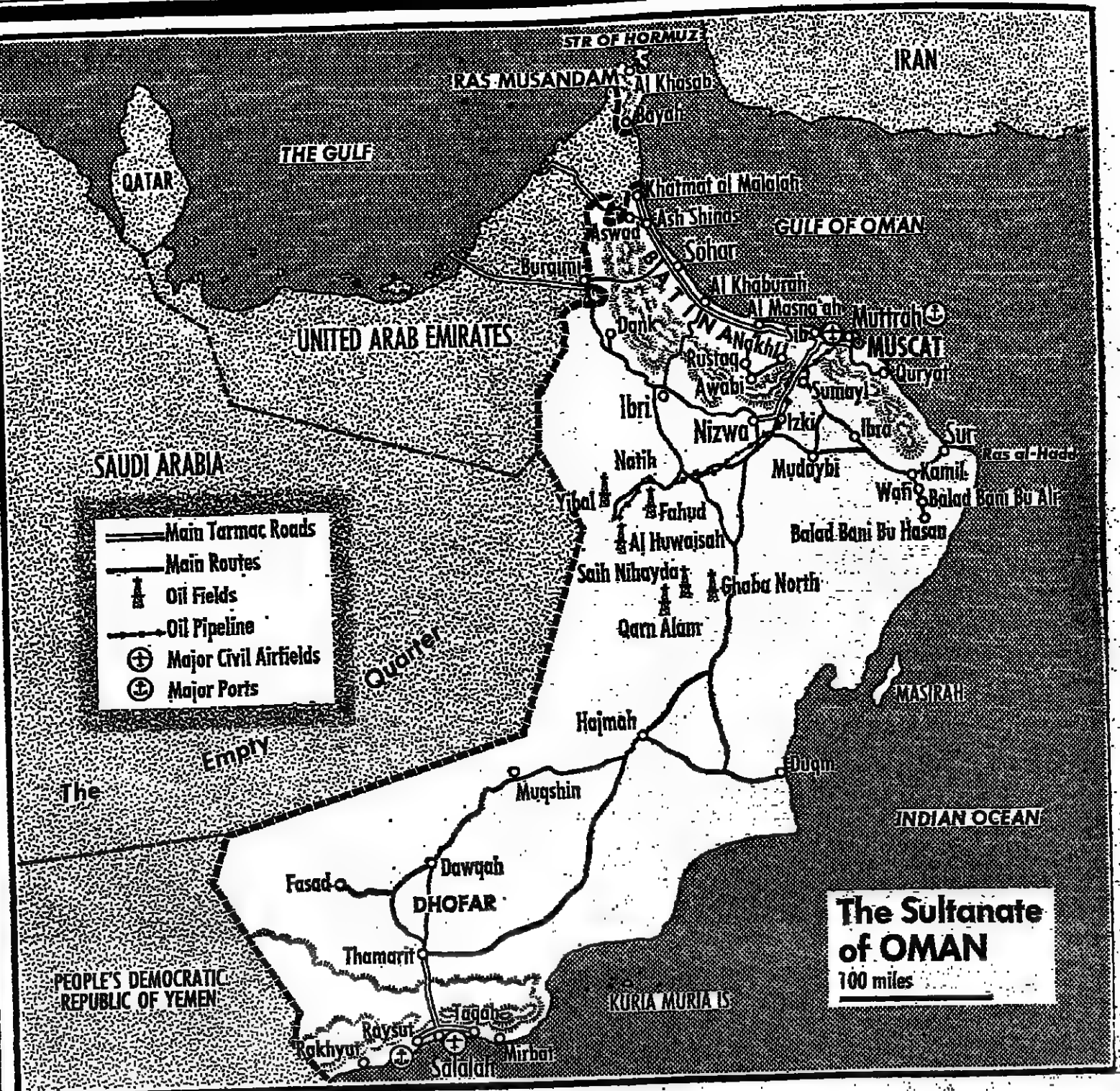
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Ribbon development replaces medieval pattern

by Simon Scott Plummer

In olden days, when in Oman ruled as the sultanate mod-

erns. Ruwi is now part of a miniature conglomeration which begins at Muscat and ends towards the last national airport at Sib, about 25 miles up the coast. From two densely packed localities, Muscat and Muttrah, where the best way of moving about was on foot, the capital area has spread to such an extent that a car is essential to get around within it. The speed of change from medieval compactness to American-style ribbon development must be unqualified.

To speak of Muscat as the capital of modern Oman is misleading. It is merely one of several nuclei within what must now be called "the capital area". Muscat is the site of the Sultan's new palace, a large, ornate building which is out of scale with its humbler surroundings. It also retains several ministries and the embassies of the important foreign powers—Britain, the United States, Iran and India.

The main urban development is taking place further up the coast, leaving Muscat as a kind of museum town. The national treasures are to be displayed in one of its splendid patrician houses and restoration has begun on the town walls and gates.

To the west the road surmounts the mountain bowl surrounding the old capital and winds along the seashore to Muttrah. Its inability to cope with modern traffic must make the residents of Muscat reluctant to venture out at all. However, work is in progress to improve their links with the outside world. The road between the two towns is being straightened, which involves blasting the rock at certain points on the route and dumping it into bays at others. Access from the south will be improved by building a road from Ruwi by way of Bustan and Sidah, by-passing Muttrah.

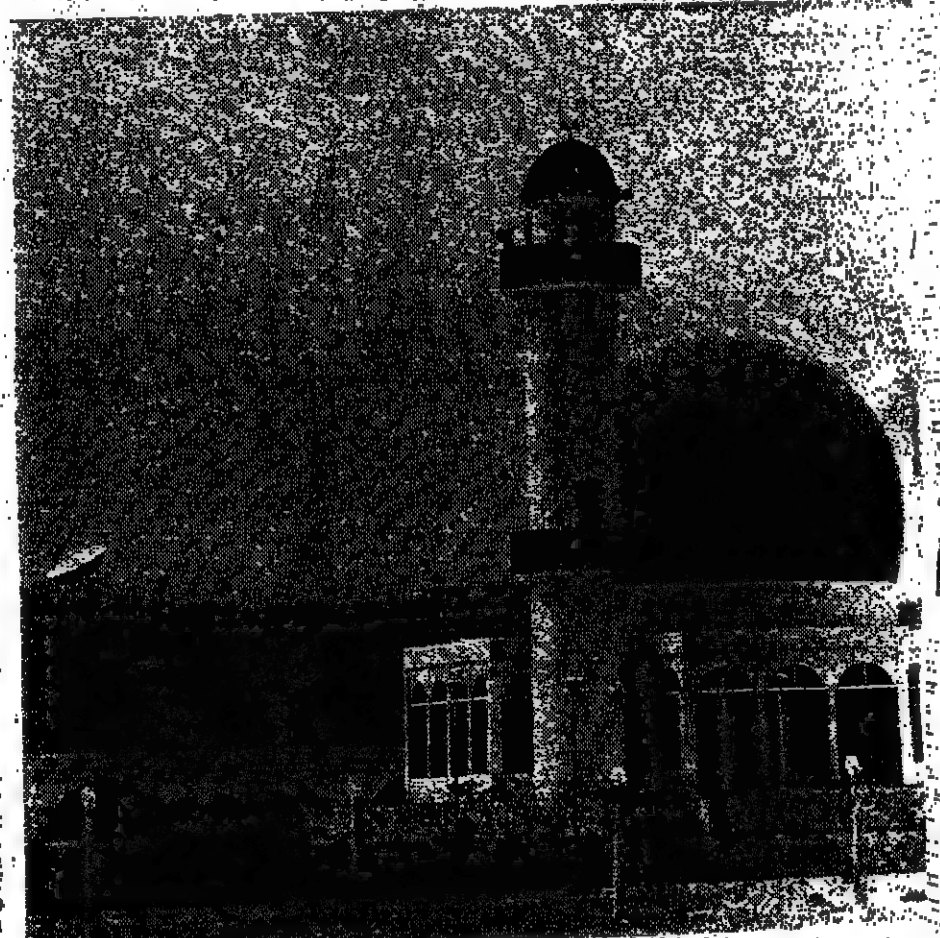
If Muscat is not the capital that it was, Muttrah has retained its role as the main commercial centre of Oman. Since Sultan Qaboos's accession it has acquired a deep water port with a capacity of 1,500,000 tons a year.

A new dual carriageway cuts through the hills to the plain on which Ruwi, or Greater Muttrah, lies. Under the previous Sultan the plain contained only the headquarters of the Sultan's Armed Forces, the Beit al-Falaj, and an airstrip. When I first visited Oman early in 1973 they had been joined by blocks of government flats, bungalows housing ministerial offices and an hotel. Since then the area has been transformed by new offices, shops, restaurants, cinemas, houses and hotels.

Ruwi today is a frontier town of half-finished buildings. Concrete blocks surrounded with wooden scaffolding rise above little tented camps occupied by the construction workers. As hardly any of the roads are asphalted, pedestrians are coated with dust from passing vehicles.

Despite the mess, Ruwi gives every appearance of becoming the dynamic core of the capital area. Its showpiece will be a new civic and commercial centre, built on the old airstrip and containing the national theatre, the national trade centre, offices of the combined desalination plant

Ministry and of the Chamber and power station and light



Cable & Wireless station for international telecommunication by satellite. In the foreground is a minaret of the Islamic Centre, Wuttayah, the capital area.

of Commerce, shopping precinct. There are proposals to provide recreational facilities along the coast. The director of the government organisation responsible for planning the capital area estimated that its population had risen by several times since 1970 to about 60,000. Rapid expansion has put a strain on water and electricity supplies which, it is hoped, will be relieved by the desalination plant and power station. Completion of the dual carriageway between Ruwi and

Sib will ease traffic congestion but, without restrictions on the import of cars, the road will no doubt soon be choked again.

Activity along this small stretch of coast is in striking contrast to other parts of the country, where little has yet been done. Development of those areas will provide work on the spot for the inhabitants and reduce the flow of people who come to Muscat and its satellite towns in search of the fruits of economic growth.

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مركز التجارة العالمي

Civilian projects hold the key to peace

the guerrillas in the South Yemen area to make news. On the Government side, the military announced that the department provides assistance in the form of a store, a school and a clinic. Once the centre is established, it is handed over to the relevant ministry.

The other was an American from Nebraska, formerly with the Peace Corps in Dhofar, who helps to run the Garza cattle farm near Salalah. The farm buys six-month-old bull calves from the jabbis and fattens them on the plain. In the old days the mountain people exchanged milk, ghee and wood with the coast people for dried sardines (used as fodder), rice and clothes. This commerce was interrupted by the guerrillas and Garza is an attempt to reintegrate the two economies.

The farm has about 470 cattle and is busy at the moment. Eventually it may have 7,500 to 8,000 head. Fodder (maize, grass, alfalfa and sorghum) is grown on an irrigated stretch of land, a bright green patch on the brown plain, which will be extended as the herd increases.

As I was a visitor to the area, I picked up a military escort before heading into the jabbah a few miles east of Salalah. A lorry full of soldiers led the way, followed by four vehicles and a military Land-Rover. Both my companions were armed.

Progress was slow. The soldiers in front got off the lorry and swept the track for mines. Two vehicles had been blown up recently and they were taking no chances. The guerrillas arrive at night, lay a mine and vanish into the tree-covered limestone ravines.

We climbed so more than 2,000ft above the plain and stopped at Madinat al-Sana. The military post there commands glorious views over the mountain range. The summits are rounded, unlike the jagged peaks of the Jabal Akhdar in northern Oman, and reminded me of the Downs. The British officer commanding the post said there were about 60 guerrillas in his territory. Contact with them was largely limited to chance encounters during night patrols.

Near the post is a Civil Aid Department centre consisting of a small store, a classroom and a dispensary. There were six children in the classroom, chanting Arabic verses. A Jordanian teacher aided by a jabbah. The store contained sugar, rice and tea and the dispensary a few medicines.

The department has about 30 centres in the mountains and on the coast, in varying stages of development. In the jabbah its presence stretches from a point west of Rakhayut, near the South Yemen border, where there is a tent and rations, to Tawi Atair in the east.

The centres are run by civil action teams consisting of a leader appointed by the Wali (Governor) of Dhofar, a shopkeeper, a school teacher, a medical orderly, a cook and perhaps someone to tend the water pumps and wells. Some centres have a Land-Rover.

The teachers, many of them Egyptian, give instruction in religion as well as in Arabic. The practice of Islam was discouraged by the guerrillas but the Government supports it and plans to equip the centres with prefabricated mosques. The Civil Aid Department is responsible for about 15 schools, each containing between 25 and 30 pupils, children and adults. In Salalah there is a boarding school for 220 jabbah children.

A flying doctor service visits the centres once a fortnight and the medical orderly, who is usually a jabbah, carries out the treatment prescribed. The jabbah form an irregular force of about 1,500. They are mountain people, armed and paid by the Government and able to take on the enemy on his own terms. Most of them are defectors from the guerrillas, of whom there have been about 1,200 over the past five years.

Below Madinat al-Sana is a watering place. The local people have made a small reservoir and a trough, which can take 70 cattle at a time, with sand and cement supplied by the Civil Aid Department. Such help of that sort is encouraged by the department.

The provision of water is the spearhead of the Government's campaign to win jabbah loyalty. Since early 1973 about 50 boreholes have been drilled within a radius of 20 miles to the north of the mountains to depths of between 60 and 600 metres. The aim of the programme, which has cost 6m rials, is to supply each tribal area with two wells for domestic use and watering cattle.

In a region where rainfall is restricted almost entirely to the monsoon period (June-September) regular supply of water makes it easier for the jabbah to settle in one spot. On the other hand concentration of cattle near boreholes could lead to overgrazing.

We drove further north towards Ashanhal. The grass had caught fire on a slope to our left and the flames were sweeping down the hill towards a gully, ruining the grazing. During the monsoon the grass is a starting emerald green. In mid-October it had turned brown on top and was interspersed with carpets of white-flowered parsley.

Jabbah villages, tucked below the skyline, blend so well with their surroundings that you hardly notice them. The houses are circular. A gap of about four feet between an outer and an inner wall is filled with earth. Large branches rest on this to form the supports for a domed roof. Smaller branches, grass and cattle dung are placed over them. Some of the roofs catch fire during the monsoon when the jabbahs are cooking indoors and the Civil Aid Department supplies the victims with canvas tents.

Ashanhal has a firga post, a store and watering troughs. It lies on the edge of the jabbah tribal land. To the north is a sparsely vegetated area inhabited by nomads with camels and goats instead of cattle. Beyond that the ground falls into gravelly desert, the Nejd, which borders the Empty Quarter.

At Zik, our next stop, we saw several herds of cattle near the water troughs supplied by the Civil Aid Department. They looked in good condition on the post-monsoon grass. The American made inquiries about the prices of bull calves. They were as high as 90 rials, twice what he paid last year, but he thought the farmers would come down before he started to collect the calves in November.

As well as fattening jabbah cattle, the Government has tried to upgrade local stock by importing nine bulls from Kenya. One of them has died, another was shot by the enemy and the remainder are the cost or in the mountains.

Our last call was at Qairon Biaret, which lies at the junction of several tribal areas on the road between Salalah and Thamarit. It is to be one of the main government centres run by a deputy wali, furnished with a hospital, school, mosque, hostel, shops and possibly low-cost housing. Between 400 and 500 people may eventually live there.

The opening of the road to which Qairon Biaret lies is a striking symbol of victory over the guerrillas. It was taken by the Iranians in December, 1973, and has



An Iran army helicopter, part of a sizable force in Oman, reinforcing an artillery position near the South Yemen border last month.

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The cost of carrying out a basic restoration, as opposed to largely rebuilding the fort, has been estimated at 150,000 rials (about £210,000), though that is likely to rise with inflation.

A preliminary investigation of Jabrin was made in 1973 and a second, more detailed, last year. Two months ago a five-man mission from the Istituto Italiano per il Medio Oriente (ISMEO) spent several days there. They carried out emergency repairs to protect the painted ceilings against rain and

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Date factory and asphalt road line the route to change

manifestations of change in the town. In the two and a half years since it was first in the news, the town has changed. The development carried out in the capital area. The wali still governs his province from the imposing fort and the agricultural extension centre, the schools and the hospital remain the chief evidence of modernization.

Lack of development is more apparent further inland. Bahla is linked to Nizwa by a graded road, instead of a rough track, and its walls have a new residence. Otherwise, it retains its old and, to European eyes, magnificent features—town walls about eight miles in length and a large fort.

The preservation of ancient monuments has, not unnaturally, been neglected in a country trying to escape from its past as quickly as possible. However, there are indications that their value has now been recognized. At present the wali conducts business from a corner of their forts while the rest disintegrates around them.

The Ministry of the Interior would like to move them into modern offices elsewhere and hand over maintenance of the forts to the Department of Antiquities, which is part of the Ministry of Information and Culture. While anxious to arrest the decay of the national patrimony, the department lacks the funds to do so.

The pioneering effort at restoration in the interior will be at Jabrin, about 12 miles south-west of Bahla. The fort there, built in the late seventeenth century, is considered to be one of the finest in Oman, both for its position and its interior decoration. It stands on a gravel plain, surrounded by palms, with a view on one side towards the desert and on the other towards the mountains, the Jabal Akhdar, whose highest point (9,500ft) is not far distant. The interior is remarkable for its painted ceilings and plasterwork.

A water channel runs through the fort and a door with decorative carving had been placed across it as a plank. Some of the floors had collapsed, others had gaping holes. At the top of the tower the walls bulged alarmingly where they had not fallen away.

In the main rooms the delicate floral patterns on the ceilings and the plaster decoration came as a surprise; they seemed to belong more to a Persian pavilion than an Oman fort.

One of the sandalwood ceiling beams had snapped and several had bees' nests hanging from them. The plaster had been drilled by smoke from fires lit for cooking by occupants of the fort. About 10 families live within its precincts.

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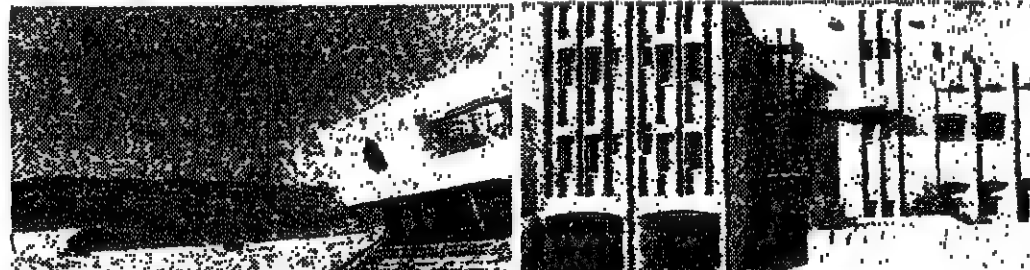
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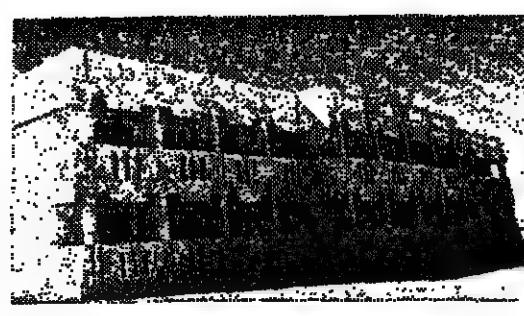
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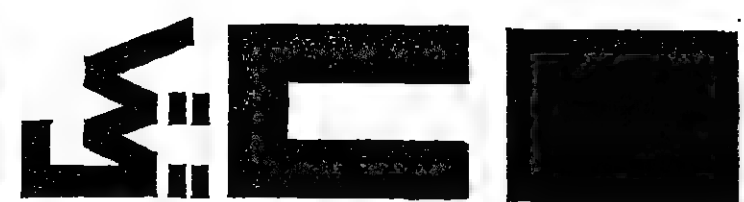


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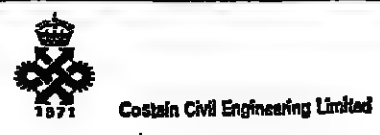


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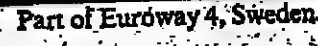
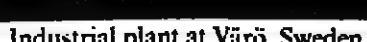
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Garden of the north bears fruit

by Simon Scott Plummer

The Bahina is a coastal plain of about 200 miles stretching in a shallow curve from the capital area of Oman to the eastern corner of the United Arab Emirates. Its main town is Sohar, which in the tenth century was one of the great commercial centres of the Islamic world. Arab and Persian ships trading with India and the Far East would provision there while waiting for the monsoon.

Oman was usually their first landfall as they approached the Gulf on the return journey. Because of the monsoon, it was also well placed to take part in the trade between Africa and India.

Sohar now belies its past, but copper deposits found on either side of the Wadi Jizzi, a watercourse which connects the town with the interior, may bring new prosperity. There are plans to build a port near Sohar for shipment of copper ore.

Three mines in the eastern foothills of the mountains are expected to produce 3,000 tons of ore a day by the end of 1978 and a feasibility study on a copper smelter and refinery is under way. The project will employ about 2,000 people in its initial stage. Further south, a Swiss-Lebanese company is assessing asbestos deposits.

New mineral resources are an important factor in Oman's efforts to lessen its dependence on oil but, as in all under-developed countries, most of the population depend on the land for a living. The Bahina is the traditional garden of the north and an exporter of dates and figs. Vegetables are also grown.

Cultivation is on the edge of the sea with a few farms further inland. Behind, a gravelly plain, dotted with trees and crossed by the wadi, stretches to the mountains. Most of the water which sporadically floods the wadi end up in the sea. The local people rely on wells.

The Government is trying to improve the quality and increase the variety of Bahina crops. An experimental station at Rumais, started four years ago, grows pumpkins, gourds, tomatoes, onions, radishes, peppers, parsley, cabbages, spinach, squash, groundnuts, mangoes, guavas, oranges, dates and coconuts. Its success has led to the opening of several farms in the vicinity.

The Department of Agriculture wants to restrict cultivation around Rumais as it fears that greater demands on water will lead to an increase in salinity. The threat of salt water seeping in as the fresh water supply diminishes is not peculiar to the Bahina; it is found as well around Salalah at the other end of the country.

In the north the chloride, from salt and the high content of calcium carbonate already in the ground make it more difficult for the soil to absorb fertilizer. Salinity could be avoided by cultivating farther inland. Rumais lies several miles inland, behind the villages and their groves of date palms.

Both the traditional Bahina crops need treatment for disease; the lines for citrus blackfly and the date for dubbas bug. There are plans to renew the date plantations, but it is difficult to

persuade farmers to replace their palm trees.

In Oman the Department of Agriculture aims to increase productivity on the 100,000 acres under cultivation through new varieties of seed, fertilizers and pesticides; to investigate the possibility of tilling new land in the Bahina, Dhofar and Sharqia; and to improve the use of the country's scarce water resources.

The value of agricultural production for 1975-76, derived mainly from dates, citrus fruits, wheat and lucerne, is estimated at 31m rials. The Department of Agriculture hopes it will more than double production over the next five years. Of the 1975-76 total, fruit accounts for 18m rials, crops for 6.6m rials and vegetables for 5.7m rials.

The quality of livestock is to be raised by crossing local cattle, sheep and goats with foreign breeds. Dairy, a source of protein more easily expanded than livestock, is also to be improved. There is a scheme to increase egg production, at first to 15 million eggs a day, then to 30 million. Oman imports more than a million eggs a month.

Three quarters of Omanis live off the land and the average size of their holdings is reckoned to be four acres. To counter the fragmentation, the Government has set up four agricultural cooperatives, three in the interior west of the Jabal Akhdar and one in Sharqia. Tractors are supplied to members at less than a quarter of the normal price. There are 75 per cent reductions on seed and 50 per cent reductions on the wholesale price of fertilizer.

From next year the cooperatives will buy all their members' produce. Farmers have accepted new methods more quickly than the Department of Agriculture expected demand for fertilizer from nearly 30 agricultural extension centres is particularly strong. This is encouraging to the Government as it embarks on long-term improvement programmes.

Oman's greatest potential in primary industry probably lies in the sea, particularly around the Musandam peninsula and between Sur and the Kuria Muria Islands. The catch includes tuna, barracuda, sardines, shrimp and lobster.

Three American companies have investigated fishery opportunities and a vessel acquired in 1973 has carried out exploratory fishing operations. Eight Oman fishermen have been trained in handling modern fishing equipment at Monterey in California. Others are receiving instruction in fish processing at Sohar.

The Government has signed an agreement with a New Zealand company for a cold store and ice factory in Muttrah. The capacity of the store is 3,250 tons and the factory will produce 36 tons of ice a day. Oman will also receive three 75ft trawlers and six trucks.

Facilities for storing fish will be set up in Baya on the Musandam peninsula, Sur, Salalah and Masirah. The Government plans to buy more trawlers and to give fishermen loans of up to 75 per cent to acquire vessels and machinery.



Unloading calves at Salalah.



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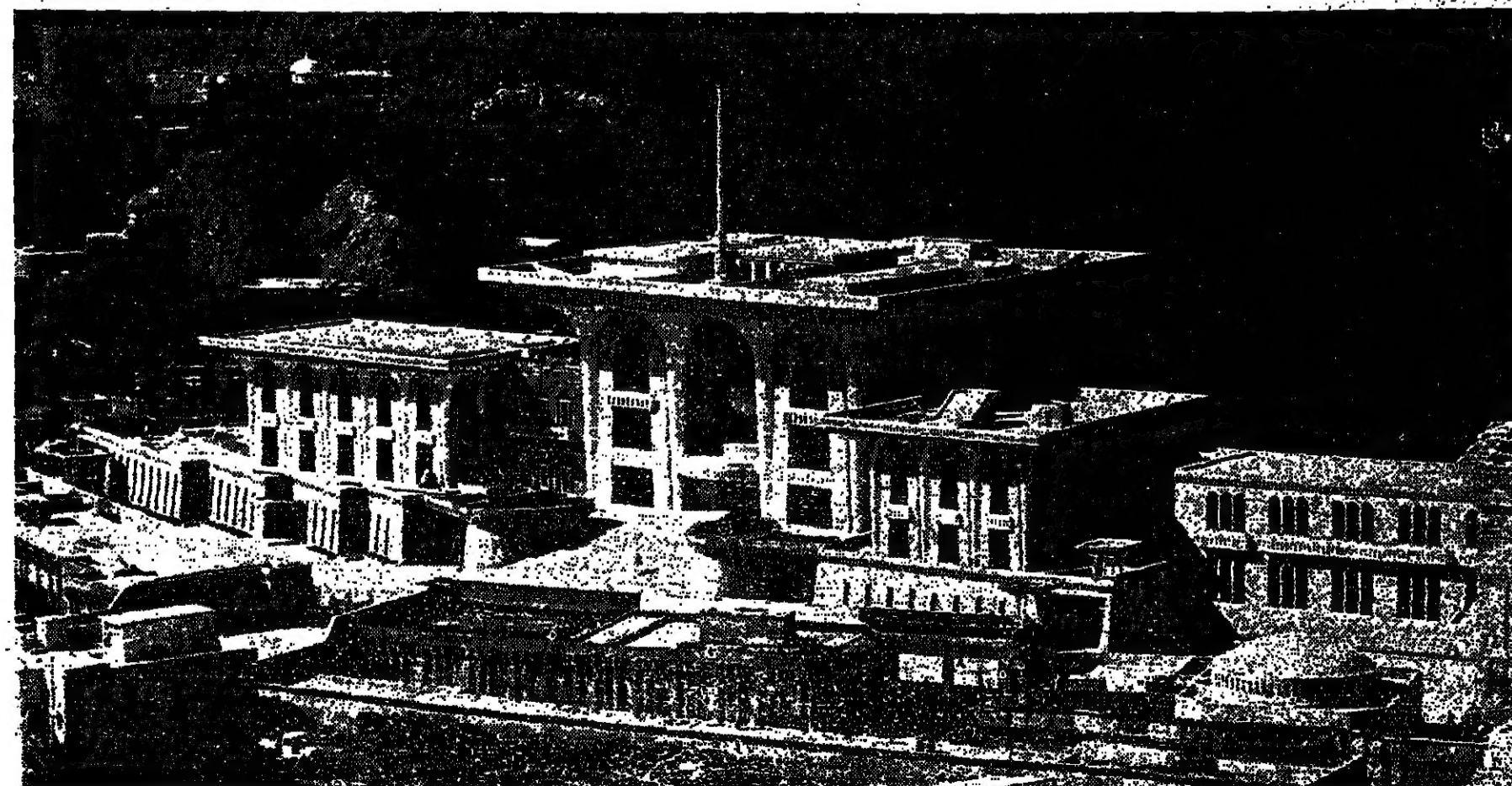
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Ancient dignity unchanged in a modern jacket

by Norma Ashworth

The traditional dress of Omanis could be taken as the intrinsic clue to the roles of the sexes. Public finery belongs to the men, who are the sole holders of acknowledged authority and official power; the anonymity of black robes, which cover even the faces entirely, and are the accepted dress of women, reflects an apparent status of subjugation.

Yet for each there is a paradox. A man's usual clothing is basically simple and egalitarian—a white gown (or *dishdash*) in the same style for sheikh or for commoner. Only from the quality of the cloth and the richness of embellishments (cloaks, turbans and silver armory) is rank inferred.

For all Oman men appearance is vastly important and an air of grave dignity is essential if etiquette is to be observed. Authority in gatherings of men is accorded by strict adherence to rank, but even a casual observer would notice how distinctive are the variations of cloaks and turbans for the members of leading families.

One cannot say that, once a man is relaxed in his own house, the necessities of outdoor wear removed, he abandons authority, but the domestic centre-stage is certainly shared. Just as a woman's black robe (an *abaya*) hints at discreet elegance when a gleam of jewelry shows through the filmy folds, the woman conceals her considerable power from strangers.

Neither the splendour of her dress nor the measure of her standing in the household as mother, wife or one of several wives, can ever be accurately gauged by a westerner, but it is well known that Oman women have little need of emancipation. Of all the Middle East countries, recent evidence through oil resources, Oman is credited with the most rapid assimilation of women into modernization schemes.

Inevitably, the changed style of life in the past five years has encouraged the younger women to change their style of dress and to leave off their veils. They have not, however, adopted a completely European type of dress, preferring to adapt the tunics and trousers which were always worn under the cloaks to fashionable designs and fabrics.

The Sultan has made it a rule for Oman men working in government departments to wear Oman dress when they are on duty but the rule is more flexible for women. They tend to dress as foreign women are requested to dress; that is, modestly covered from neck to hem.

Fashion influences from other countries were rare in Oman until recent years. Few are traceable, even from the days when Oman's ships travelled far abroad and the ports of Muscat, Matruh, Sohar and Sur were trading posts, filled with foreign goods.

Regional costumes of the different tribes remain today as they are thought to have been for centuries—simple variations on the layering of cotton trousers, skirts and flowing scarves for the women, the plain *dishdash* for the men. Away from the coastal areas women do not wear the all-enveloping



Women from Sharqia; right: a girl from the Batina coast; top left: a shepherd spins wool from his own sheep; and, right, a *wafi*, local representative of the Sultan.

abaya, but will cover their sumptuous velvets and silks as brilliantly as new. A comparison with other clothes of the East would suggest a Turkish trend, especially as a few like say fastened with jewelry, is sometimes worn. The dress is, however, a square open neck line and a hem which is higher in the front than at the back to afford a glimpse of embroidered trousers, or bare legs (though to scandalise Muscat women).

The most colourfully dressed people in Oman are the Baluchi women and children whose gaily cotton draperies are visible across miles of desert sand. As a rule, the large number of immigrants from India, Pakistan, India, and Iraq.

It is interesting to see that the large cotton rectangles they use for their costumes and which today are likely to come from China and Japan as from India are patterned with designs recognized in many parts of the world as African.

The reason for *kanga* cloth's sharing two cultures is the influence of Islam in much African art. Koranic inscriptions and calligraphic symbols are known to have been introduced to northern Africa early in the eighth century when the only skilled printers and dyers of cloth were ignorant Muslims.

The ancient methods of dyeing, particularly with indigo, a plant which grows profusely in central Oman, are still used, although some coloured yarns are nowadays imported from India for the weaving industry. Weaving is one of the oldest skills in Oman, where cotton was once a profitable crop exported to other parts of Arabia.

Although cotton is no longer grown, the woven cloth used chiefly for men's saragms (worn under the *dishdash* or by labourers) is produced in sufficient quantities on old hand-looms to supply the discerning.

Cheap copies, with the traditional blue and white pattern and crimson border, nowadays flow in to the Sultanate from China. Japan has had an even wider influence on the men's *dishdash* which at its simplest is seen more often in an imported synthetic which rivals the white cotton (once deemed the only suitable cloth of purity for pilgrims) making the *haji* to Mecca.

The Persian wife of an early Oman ruler is credited with introducing the Kashmir turban, worn with such distinction, either pleated regularly by gentlemen on formal occasions in Muscat or wound negligently on to the head of a tribesman from the interior. Two other head-dresses are equally typical in Oman—the intricately folded urban of crisp white cotton which, once perfectly formed, will keep its shape when removed from the head, and the *eyelined skull cap* (dummal) of stiff cotton embroidered in individual patterns.

It had to be the woman who embroidered the skull caps, always devising intricate designs and never duplicating them, but in recent times the Indian tailors in the suk have been creating the designs on treadle sewing machines. It is not unusual to see strings of caps for sale, linked by a line through eyelet holes at prices ranging from the equivalent of £4 to £15, depending upon the workmanship. Collectors of silver jewelry look for, but rarely find, the small, sharp silver sticks used for eyeletting and which women wear on chastalities with collections of keys and amulets.

Headscarves (*Kaffiyah*) of the type worn with tasselled cords (*aqal*) in other parts of Arabia and much of Asia Minor are not common in Oman. The chequered ones of red or blue with white worn by the services were introduced from Jordan and are now a standard part of military dress, but otherwise it is the embroidered Kashmir square which is worn either folded as a turban or draped across the shoulders.

European dress has had scant impact on Oman, with the exception of the growing habit of wearing suit jackets over the *dishdash* in cooler weather and on many formal occasions. The travelled Omanis, who are accustomed to wearing western clothes during trips abroad, will have tailored jackets of finest cloth bought in the capitals of Europe. The local Omanis make their choice in the suk from racks of suit jackets imported from India and Pakistan and never with matching trousers.

European shoes and socks are worn more nowadays for the purely practical reason that they are easier to drive in and for walking on modern pavements. Desert boots also are slowly replacing the sandals for sale in the market place. The most popular of them are imported from Czechoslovakia and China. The market shoe-maker can still be persuaded to make goat or camel-hide sandals, but he is generally busied converting discarded motor tyres into thonged "flip-flops" which are snapped up as bargains by early Oman ruler is credited

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It is these desert travellers on their journeys to the coastal towns who give the most vivid impression of the colourful dress which typifies the peasant life of Oman. They travel either by Land-Rover or lorry, under chintz canopies and on mounds of brightly coloured cushions.

The open lorries have an almost ceremonial air with trellised ironwork sides wrought in open patterns of Arabesque and Islamic symbols, painted in a variety of colours. The mixture of costumes and headscarves is dazzling, especially if there are children among the passengers.

For them the shiniest and most expensive of fabrics are made into dresses, jackets and close-fitting caps (very similar to Tudor bonnets) a superimposed with stitching in gold and silver threads. Their eyes are ringed with kohl, their faces painted with saffron and their hair is caked with henna and the necks are adorned with necklaces, bracelets and hair ornaments.

Although the only precise recognizable form of dress in Oman which could be taken as national remains the *dishdash* worn by the sheikhs of two types of the North, a fine gold or silver edged cloak (a *bisht*) and a decorated dagger (*khanjar*) at the waist, there could be disagreement.

Tribal differences which extend to dress are also apparent and which is the traditional of the various tribes seen even within 10 miles of capital, no one can say. At least there is no argument that, for formal occasions, the dress of members of the Government is the one which gives Omanis distinct among the variously robed representatives of other Arab nations.

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